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INSETS.

("C. & D.," Winter Issue, January 25, 1908.)

THE distribution of circulars and price-lists through THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is a remarkably effective form of advertising to those who deal in chemicals, medicines, and other kinds of chemists' goods. It originated with THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and our method of distribution enables us to accept insets actually printed to the order of advertisers in the manner they desire. This is important, as such insets are not officially permitted to be distributed by newspaper post, while THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST method has official sanction. We thus ensure delivery, which to advertisers is a *sine qua non*. Besides, the distribution of such insets in a trade journal of the high business reputation of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is in itself a first-class introduction, and sure means of bringing orders. The Publisher will be glad to supply full particulars to any inquirer.

Summary.

The subjoined paragraphs give the gist of the more important matters in this issue, with the object of showing at a glance what has happened during the week. See also "Contents" in the first column.

THE conclusion of the liquid air patent case is given on p. 860.

SOME interesting particulars about Pharmacopœia matters are given on p. 876.

WHAT is the correct formula for Hamilton's pills? We reply to this on p. 881.

THE wet summer of 1907 has had an adverse effect on business in aerated waters and photographic (p. 862).

AN IMPORTANT NOTE to importers of chemicals to Japan has been communicated to us by the Foreign Office (p. 880).

THE United States Board of Appraisers have declared that synthetic camphor may be imported free of duty (p. 876).

THE United States Department of Agriculture have issued information on medicinal roots, which we summarise on p. 865.

ASSISTANTS who contemplate accepting service in East Africa should read a short article given in the Coloured Supplement.

THE Franco-British Exhibition is to be the feature of 1908. We again refer to the progress that has been made by the organisers (p. 866).

"XRAYSER" has discovered some straight remarks by Huxley in regard to medical claims to the exclusive practice of the healing art (p. 863).

THE original prescription reproduced in our issue of November 9 proved a rather difficult one to decipher. The four successful decipherers are named on p. 862.

A VARIETY of subjects were dealt with at the London meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry—rubber coagulation, sucrose determination, and niam fat (p. 873).

THE copies of *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary* 1908 for subscribers in Australia, India, Japan, China, West Indies, and other far-distant countries have been despatched (p. 867).

THE new by-laws of the Pharmaceutical Society, over which there has been some controversy, have been confirmed by the Privy Council. We note the chief alterations on p. 864.

MESSRS. OPPENHEIMER give some particulars of the work they did in evolving a suitable basis for Lambkin's cream, showing that the "B.P. Codex" formula is antiquated (p. 881).

A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER has obtained a rule *nisi* and a *mandamus* directing the General Medical Council to supply him with copies of a complaint of unprofessional conduct made against him (pp. 860 and 875).

MR. PETER BOA has addressed an open letter to the President of the Pharmaceutical Society in reference to certain inaccuracies which, he says, were uttered by the President at the Sheffield banquet last week (p. 881).

ADVERTISING has been the subject of two papers before associations. At Nottingham Mr. W. Gill was the lecturer, and in London Mr. E. T. Neathercoat gave some pertinent notes to the Assistants' Association (p. 869 and 871).

THE question as to whether the administration of the Pharmacy Acts should not be transferred from the Pharmaceutical Society to local authorities was discussed by the West Riding Federation, but nothing definite was agreed upon (p. 870).

THE public business at the Council meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society did not occupy much time. Some interesting recapitulation of the practice of the Inland Revenue as regards the Medicine-stamp Act came up towards the end (p. 856).

SOME further particulars of the evidence before the Committee that dealt with the N.Z. Quackery-prevention Bill are given, but the witnesses examined do not appear to be such as could give evidence on a question which must be approached in a broad-minded spirit (p. 854).

BUSINESS has shown some improvement this week, but the undertone remains easy in many articles, as with the approach of the end of the year holders desire to clear. Both English and German refined camphor are dearer. All citrates, santoin, arsenic, resin, vanilla, aniseed oil, quinine (second-hands) are easier or lower. Cube and copaiba oils are dearer. The last auctions of the year are reported on p. 877.

English News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

The Chorley Council have accepted the tender of Messrs. Stopford & Co. for the supply of bauxite and oxide for the main-sewage works.

At a property sale at Lichfield on November 29, a chemist's shop in Tamworth Street was purchased by Boots, Cash Chemists, for 1,000/.

The first dinner of the Royal Society of Medicine was held at the Hôtel Cecil on Tuesday evening, December 3, Sir William Church presiding over a company of 400.

Mr. George Daniel, an assistant in the employ of Messrs. Walker & Harris, chemists, Bank Street, Ashford (Kent), has won a prize of 98/ 17s. in a limerick competition.

The Derma Featural Co. claimed, in the Westminster County Court on November 30, the balance of fifteen guineas, of which 7/ had been paid, for "building up a new nose," from a Mr. Spence. Mr. Spence pleaded infancy, but was ordered to pay at the rate of 5s. a month.

The Manchester and North of England Optical Society met for the opening of the session at the Albion Hotel on December 4. Mr. George Bennett presided, and was re-appointed President. Other officers were elected and reports and balance-sheet passed. The Society has fifty-three members.

A Manchester man, who had purchased from a chemist a few chlorate of potash pellets the other day, placed them in one of his trousers pockets. While sitting at home in front of the fire it is stated that an explosion of the tablets in his pocket occurred, his thigh being badly burned.

At a meeting of the London County Council on December 3 it was decided that Mr. J. H. Coste, senior assistant, be promoted to be chief assistant in the chemical and gas-testing department, at a salary of 400/ a year, and that Mr. E. T. Shelbourn be promoted to the position of senior assistant, at a commencing salary of 300/ a year.

At Grimsby on December 2, John James Leigh was sentenced to two months' hard labour for harbouring smuggled saccharin. Leigh was formerly a ship's fireman, but latterly had travelled the country trafficking in saccharin. Officers who raided his house found 140 oz., which had not paid duty, concealed beneath his bed.

The Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet, and Colour Dyers, Ltd., applied to Mr. Justice Parker on December 3 to sanction the reduction of its capital from 400,000/ to 78,000/. It was explained in course of the hearing that the company's losses were due to the fact that the two primary colours in which the name of the company rejoiced had gone out of fashion. A great part of their work consisted of dyeing regimental coats, and it had been most materially interfered with owing to the fact that scarlet had given place to khaki.

Census of Production Act.

A meeting of the General Advisory Committee was held on December 4, at the offices of the Board of Trade. Those present were: Mr. Llewellyn Smith, C.B. (presiding); Sir Hugh Bell, Bart.; Sir Robert Giffen, K.C.B.; Mr. A. Wilson Fox, C.B.; Professor S. J. Chapman; Mr. M. Delevingne, of the Home Office; Mr. G. J. Stanley, C.M.G.; Mr. H. W. Macrosty; and Mr. G. C. L. Maunder (acting Secretary).

Royal Institution.

The lecture arrangements at the Royal Institution before Easter include the following: Sir David Gill, a Christmas course of six illustrated lectures on "Astronomy, Old and New," adapted to a juvenile auditory; Dr. A. A. Gray, two lectures on "The Internal Ear of Different Animals"; Professor W. Stirling, six lectures on "Membranes: Their Structure, Uses, and Products"; Professor W. Somerville, two lectures on "Wood: Its Botanical and Technical Aspects"; Mr. R. T. Glazebrook, two lectures on "Physics"; Professor Gisbert Kapp, "The Electrification of Railways"; and Professor J. J. Thomson, six lectures on "Electric Discharges Through Gases." The Friday evening meetings will commence on January 17,

when Professor T. E. Thorpe will deliver a discourse on "The Centenary of Davy's Discovery of the Metals of the Alkalies."

The Drug Club.

This organisation of partners and directors of the leading wholesale drug-houses in Great Britain held the half-yearly business meeting at Cannon Street Hotel, London, on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. John C. Umney, Vice-President, being in the chair, owing to the absence in Australia of the President, Colonel Wyley. The proceedings were private, but we are informed that Sir Edward Evans, of Liverpool, was elected President in succession to Colonel Wyley, Mr. John C. Umney was re-elected Vice-President, and Mr. Chas. A. Hill, B.Sc., was re-elected Secretary. In the evening the members dined together at the Café Royal, Regent Street. About fifty were present, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

Poor-law Notes.

At the annual meeting of the South Yorkshire Poor-law Officers' Association at Sheffield on November 30, Mr. H. Antcliffe, chemist and druggist, was elected at the top of the poll as one of the representatives of the Sheffield Union on the Council of the Association during the coming year.

At the meeting of the Islington Guardians on November 28 the Finance and General Purposes Committee brought up a report recommending that the salary of Mr. Thomas Simnett, dispenser, be increased from 110/ to 120/. Mr. Simnett was appointed in August 1899 at a salary of 90/ per annum, with apartments, coals, and gas valued at 30/ per annum. In October 1903 his salary was increased from 90/ to 110/., after four years' service as per scale. The latest increase is under the Local Government Board scale recently sanctioned. The committee further recommended that the salary of Mr. W. Jones, dispenser, be increased from 160/ to 170/ per annum. Mr. Jones commenced his service in July 1876. His salary varied until he came under the new scale in November 1899, when it was increased from 140/ to 150/., and in November 1903 to 160/ per annum. The consideration of the recommendations was adjourned until the next meeting.

Sheffield Notes.

Councillor A. Russell Fox, F.L.S., was among the guests invited to the annual meeting and dinner of the South Yorkshire Poor-law Officers' Association on November 30.

At the very elaborate exhibition of the London Missionary Society, held at the Cutlers' Hall during the past fortnight, an interesting case of Chinese native medicines was on view at the medical stall. Some useful medical missionary chests were shown, and the Sheffield Medical Supply Association had a small exhibit.

The annual report of the Sheffield Royal Hospital, just issued, shows a deficiency of 2,092/ 14s. 7d. on income as compared with expenditure during the year. No fewer than 269 cases have been treated by electricity, Finsen light, and x rays, and 1,344 exposures of Finsen light and x rays have been made. The list of intoxications shows five cases of morphine (one fatal), seven of lead, and one each of carbon bisulphide and strychnine, while the casualties return includes thirty-four cases of poisoning.

Birmingham Notes.

The red-covered pamphlet has been mailed to most pharmacists of this city, and has caused quite a consternation in the ranks of the craft.

In spite of the lavish entertainments meted out during the visit of the Society of Chemical Industry to this city last summer there will be a return *pro rata* of 10 per cent. of the money guaranteed.

Pharmacy has received recognition by the local section of the Society of Chemical Industry, Mr. F. H. Alcock having been appointed a vice-chairman, with two others who represent commercial analysis and the brewing industry.

The interchange of courtesies among the brotherhood is growing apace. Wolverhampton has had a paper from a Midland Association member, and Worcester has invited Birmingham to join in their festivities this week. Is it a happy sign of the approach of Christmas?

What with the eongregational whist-drive and the solo diablo and merry moves behind the counter, the pharma-

cist's time is fully taken up, and a special whip-round was made for the evening meeting of the M.P.A. at the Grand Hotel on December 5.

An agitation is proceeding to secure the closing of all shops in Birmingham for two days after December 25. It is doubtful if the chemists will be able to do this.

The elegant shops in Moseley which have been placed on the site of Mr. Brassington's pharmacy and commodious house are ready for occupation. A feature of them is that access to the upper floors is by a spiral staircase, which occupies little space in one corner of the room. Messrs. Boots' alterations are going on slowly, and it is stated that a start will not be made this side of Christmas.

Professor Frankland, at the Institute of Chemistry dinner, recited the following:

See one physician like a sculler flies,
The patient lingers and by inches dies;
But two physicians like a pair of oars,
Waft him more swiftly to the Stygian shores.

A well-known scientific lecturer found that he could not fulfil his engagement to lecture in a small provincial town, and, notifying the society that had engaged him, offered to make good any loss through his delinquency. A few days afterwards brought a secretarial letter enclosing the following handbill:

As Professor — is unable to give his advertised lecture, the Amateur Dramatic Club have kindly volunteered to perform instead two laughable farces. Any person who has bought a ticket for the other may have it transferred to this on payment of sixpence extra.

A Chemist's Disappearance.

Some anxiety has been caused during the past few weeks by the sudden and unaccountable disappearance of Mr. Percy Bagnall, chemist and druggist, of Ashton-under-Lyne. On November 13 Mr. Bagnall locked up his shop as usual after the business of the day, and until within the past few days little or nothing has been heard of him. Last week a gentleman who called at the shop said he saw Mr. Bagnall at Stockport late on the night of the disappearance, but no trace of him could be found until recently. The latest report states that Mr. Bagnall's relatives now know where he is.

A Police Raid.

At the Blackburn County Police Court on December 4, George Mercer, chemist and druggist, of Queen Street, Great Harwood, was summoned by the police for using his premises for betting purposes and also for permitting his shop to be used for betting. A man named Shuttleworth was charged with using the shop for the same purpose. The evidence was to the effect that the police were suspicious of some men who visited Mr. Mercer's premises, and a watch was kept for two days. Ultimately the shop was raided, but a man whom the police expected to find inside was not there. A book was found containing names and amounts, but it was admitted that these might relate to ordinary business transactions. Neither money nor slips was seen to pass between the parties by the police, and after a short hearing the Magistrates dismissed the cases.

Masonic.

At Horncastle on November 19, at the installation meeting of the Banovallum R.A. Chapter 1384, no fewer than four of those present were chemists. They were Mr. H. R. Maynard, P.Z., of Horncastle; Messrs. A. Bellamy and F. W. Dennis, of Louth; and Mr. J. J. Rainey, of Spilsby. Companion H. R. Maynard installed his successor into the First Principal's chair, after filling that office for two years. A handsome P.Z. jewel was presented to Mr. Maynard. On November 22 the installation meeting of the St. James Chapter was held at Louth, when Companion H. R. Maynard was again First Principal (holding the two offices by dispensation of the Grand Superintendent), and Messrs. A. Bellamy, F. W. Dennis, and J. J. Rainey were also members. Companion Maynard was unfortunately prevented from installing his successor and brother-chemist at Louth—Companion Bellamy. The R.A. Chapter at Horncastle was founded in 1902, mainly through the efforts of Companion Maynard.

Northampton Institute.

The prize distribution at the Northampton Polytechnic Institute, Clerkenwell, London, E.C., took place on Novem-

ber 29, and was performed by the Duke of Connaught. The Duke, in his speech, made a few remarks about the superiority of technical education abroad, and praised the work which is being done at the Institute. He referred to the subscription of the Spectacle-makers' Company towards the expense of the optical course. On the following day the annual conversazione was held, the whole of the laboratories being open for inspection, including the optical work-rooms at the British Horological Institute adjoining.

Disappearing Drugs and Sundries.

Edward Henry Carter (19), a packer at the Homerton works of the Crown Perfumery Co., again appeared before the Magistrate at North London Police Court on December 5 charged with stealing perfumery from his employers (*C. & D.*, November 30, p. 812), and was bound over to come up for judgment if called upon.

At North London Police Court on December 4, John Robinson (19) and George Clark (19) were remanded on charges of being concerned in stealing three bottles of scent, one bottle of smelling-salts, and one bottle of orange quinine wine (value 1*l.* 5*s.* 4½*d.*), belonging to Mr. Fred Soutar Booth, chemist and druggist, of 39 St. Paul's Road, Canonbury.

At the Old Street Police Court on November 30, George Lester (19) was charged with having stolen eight packets of chocolate, six packets of pills, and a box of ointment, total value 18*s.*, the goods of Messrs. Sutton & Co., druggists' sundriesmen, 76 Chiswell Street, Finsbury.—James Butler, in the employ of Albert Tebbutt, trading as Sutton & Co., identified the goods in question, which, he said, had been taken from the stockroom where prisoner was employed. The things had not been missed till police officers brought them with the prisoner to the premises. The police had been communicated with to watch the prisoner, who had been suspected.—The prisoner pleaded guilty, saying that he had been led into it because of his small wages.—The witness Butler said the prisoner's wages were 13*s.* a week; and the detective said that a letter was found on the prisoner from a man who was suspected of receiving the goods, and who had been implicated in a previous case. The prisoner had respectable parents living at Lower Edmonton.—A remand was ordered.

Before Mr. Biron, at the Old Street Police Court, on November 29, William Green (46), storekeeper, William Hitchen (40), plasterer, and Cornelius Donovan (57), carman, were charged with stealing and receiving a large quantity of pills, emulsion, perfumes, iodine, drugs, etc., belonging to Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Sons, manufacturing chemists, 35-42 Charlotte Street, E.C. The evidence given on behalf of the prosecutors showed what the Magistrate termed "a long-standing and systematic robbery" of goods which were under the charge of Green, who was in prosecutors' employ as storekeeper at a weekly salary of 29*s.* Donovan was a carman, also in the service of the prosecutors, and to him, on at least four occasions in the past few months, a hamper packed with pills, emulsion, drugs, etc., was handed by Green, who instructed him to leave it at a place in the vicinity of Bishopsgate for someone to call for. The police discovered that the person who called for these goods was Hitchen, who, in addition to being a plasterer, carried on a business in and around Lower Edmonton as a "professor of fur and feathers," to quote from a card put in by that prisoner's solicitor. Donovan, on arrest, at once disclaimed all knowledge of the contents of the hampers. In reply to the Magistrate Messrs. Hewlett's cashier said he thought that the whole of the property in respect of which proceedings were taken had been stolen during the past six months, and that the prosecutors did not think there had been any dishonest transactions between the prisoners beyond the four hampers referred to. In view of the excellent character borne by Green during the twenty years he had been in the service of Messrs. Hewlett & Sons, they wished very strongly to recommend him to mercy, and even held out the possibility of taking him back into their service, having found him, prior to this most unfortunate affair, steady, honest, hard-working, and in every way capable. Donovan had worked for them during four years, and there was nothing against his character previous to this case. All the prisoners pleaded guilty, and evidence was

given of the good character hitherto borne by all three prisoners. A strong appeal was made to the Magistrate to treat the case under the First Offenders Act; but Mr. Biron said the matter was too serious, and sentenced Green and Hitchen to six weeks' imprisonment in the second division, and Donovan to fourteen days'.

The Nottingham Arson Charge.

At the Nottingham Guildhall on Monday afternoon, for the third time, Ernest Bradbury, assistant to Mr. W. Thomson, chemist, Derby Road, appeared before the Magistrates on the charge of maliciously setting fire to his employer's premises on October 7. Mr. W. E. Comery, who appeared for Bradbury, asked the Magistrates to recall Mr. Thomson and Mr. Lee (his other assistant), and assured the Magistrates that he had information which justified this course. The prosecution not objecting, Mr. Thomson went into the witness-box, and, replying to Mr. Comery's questions, stated that he became acquainted with Lee through the latter asking him for a job to deliver bills. He gave him one, and three months later appointed him his confidential clerk. Witness had been in business twelve or thirteen years. Upon this statement, the following questions were put and answers given:

Mr. Comery: During that time how many fires have you had?—I don't know how many.

The Chairman: Don't know? Come, that won't do.

Mr. Comery: So many that you don't know?

Witness: I have had two fires in Nottingham in the shop—three fires altogether.

Where was the third one?—There was one in a store of mine at Dundee, not in my shop. [Witness subsequently stated that he had three fires in Nottingham, but the third one was only a small matter in the lavatory. He had no intention of keeping anything back.] Asked as to whether these four were the only fires he had had since he had been in business, he replied, "To the best of my knowledge they are. . . . The first year I was married I had one in the washhouse. That is six or seven years ago."

The Chairman: That makes five fires.

Mr. Comery: Where was this one at?—At Dundee. The fires were paltry little things not worth mentioning.

The Chairman: Understand you are here to give evidence on oath, and when you are asked to tell us how many fires you have had you should not say three if you mean there are five or six. You must remember fires. They are incidents you don't forget, especially in the last few years.

Mr. Comery: Be very careful, because there are certain things coming out afterwards. Inquiries have been very elaborately made. Now, any more?

Witness: To the best of my ability—

The Chairman: Think, think!

Mr. Comery: I won't have any "to the best of my abilities" about fires. Were there any more?

Witness: No. Mr. Thomson went on to say that he was insured against fire with the London Assurance Co., and the claim he made in respect of the last fire was for 2,200*l*. He was also insured under the Liability Act, and his profits were insured with the Profits and Income Insurance Co. In the original proposal form of the last-named company he did not put down his annual profit as 2,000*l*. If this amount was on the form it was a mistake. An agent of the company afterwards called on him, and a fresh proposal form was made out. He did not know whether he put the amount of annual profit in the second form as 700*l*.

The Chairman: You surely must know whether at first you put the profits at 2,000*l*., and whether subsequently you put them at 700*l*. Is it so, or is it not?—It would be 700*l*.

Mr. Comery: How do you account for a man with a profit of 700*l*., a year having no balance at the bank?—There is money owing to me: I do a large credit business.

Mr. Comery then cross-examined the witness as to the correspondence which passed between himself and Lee while he was in Scotland, and witness said that the letter which he received from Lee was to the effect that everything was going on well; but he had to complain that the cellar-doors were left open one night, and there was the old complaint as to being troubled with rats. A Post-Office clerk produced the telegram which was despatched by Mr. Thomson to Lee from Brechin on October 5. It was handed in at 4 p.m., and read:

Have sent express note. You ought to have it by about 6.30 to-morrow. If you do not get it, then look letter-box, and if not, inquire at P.O.—Thomson.

The Chairman: And that was all about rats? The Chairman also said:

There is one question I ought to ask you: you insured the profits at 700*l*. What did you pay income-tax on the year before?—I never paid income-tax.

Have you made returns?—Yes, I have.

Robert Lee was next recalled and cross-examined by Mr. Comery. He said that he was hawking bootlaces when he first made Mr. Thomson's acquaintance. Prior to going to Nottingham he had been peddling round everywhere. His wages as a bill-distributor were 15*s*. a week; they were raised to 2*l*. 10*s*. when he was made confidential clerk. At the previous hearing witness had sworn that Bradbury, who was fully dressed, woke him up on the morning of the fire, and that he (Lee) only just had time to get into his trousers. He now admitted that at the time of the fire he had on the frock-coat which he was wearing in court. Mr. Comery now put it to him that it was he (Lee) who woke Bradbury, whereupon witness said this was a deliberate lie. It was also an infamous lie to say that he (Lee) put the cheque for 5*l*. in Bradbury's trousers; nor did he tell Bradbury's brother to keep his mouth shut. —The hearing was at this stage adjourned until December 9.

The Dentist's Death-certificate.

Harold Shirtcliffe, the twelve-week-old child of a Sharrow labourer, died suddenly, and Mr. W. W. Alnwick, surgeon-dentist, who had attended deceased since birth, sent a note to the Coroner stating that in his opinion the cause of death was convulsions. At the inquest held on November 27, Dr. Lockwood, who had made a *post-mortem* examination, said that death was due to convulsions. On the completion of the evidence the Coroner asked Mr. Alnwick if he desired to give evidence in his own behalf. Mr. Alnwick said he did not see the necessity. The medical evidence confirmed what he had said in his note.—The Coroner: But you are not a qualified man, and I could not take any notice of your note.—Mr. Alnwick: As I have had thirty years' practice, and have attended over 3,000 midwifery cases, I think I am entitled to some consideration. I gave my opinion as to what the child died from, and that tallies with the doctor's. Answering further questions, witness said he was not a qualified medical man, and he had not been in trouble before for giving certificates. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

Christmas Holidays and Stocktaking.

Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., of Southwark, S.E., will close their offices and warehouses on December 25 and 26. Business will be done as usual on December 27 and 28, but the premises will be again closed on December 30 and 31 for stocktaking purposes. We shall be glad if other firms will send us particulars of their holiday arrangements.

Irish News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

A Will Case.

A sensational will case occupied the High Court, Dublin, for five days last week. Mr. W. H. Connor, Newry, was a plaintiff as an executor of the will. Mr. J. E. Connor, pharmaceutical chemist, Newry, was also a witness at the trial. The evidence was successful in convincing the jury that the will was invalid.

Personal.

The Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland intends to signalise the wedding of Mr. W. J. Gibson, one of their most active workers, by the presentation of an illuminated address. The ceremony is to take place at the Society's rooms in Belfast on December 17.

The Exhibition Deficit.

The deficit of the Irish International Exhibition at Dublin is announced to exceed 100,000*l*., and the question of requiring the guarantors to pay at the rate of 14*s*. in the pound is at present engrossing the attention of all concerned. Interest at the rate of 500*l*. per month is accruing to the Bank of Ireland in respect of the overdraft.

Attack on Chemists.

We do not suppose that when Dr. Teed put forward his report to the City of London he realised how his clumsily-worded remarks on the alleged inaccurate dispensing would

be interpreted by those who have no technical knowledge. The "Northern Star" quotes the report of Dr. Teed, and bases on it the following scurrilous remarks about the Belfast trade:

For very many personal reasons it would not have been judicious on the part of the complainants to have brought any charges against their particular dispensers of medicine, but the fact remained that many suffered through either the ignorance, incapacity, or downright fault of the chemist. Druggists in a small way of business cannot afford to buy high-priced goods. No one can blame them for that. But these same druggists profess to fill up any prescription, no matter what it costs. They profess to do so, but they don't. A story was told to me lately about a young man, in the full possession of mental faculties, which would have eventually succeeded in obtaining him a high place in the world's estimation. He contracted an illness, and went to a doctor. The doctor told him that his illness would eventually prove fatal if certain remedies were not adopted. The patient agreed to anything the doctor said, and accordingly the latter wrote out a prescription. The prescription was taken to a chemist—remember in the city of Belfast—and that chemist accepted the prescription, although he had not the high-priced ingredients in stock—he accepted it—made up the bottle with inferior stuff, and the man who swallowed the contents of that bottle under the impression that it was genuine is now dead—a young man sent into eternity by the deceit of a Belfast chemist.

Scotch News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Personal.

Mr. Alexander Fraser, chemist and druggist, of West Linton, Peeblesshire, has been elected a member of the Parish Council.

Aberdeen.

A circular marked "Private," and signed by the Hon. Secretary of the Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association, has been issued to the trade in Aberdeen this week. It contains a recommendation by a meeting of chemists held recently regarding the sale of Easton's syrup and similar preparations. It appears to meet the requirements of the Act, but opinions may differ on that point. In any case, for the sake of uniformity at least, it is to be hoped that it will be given effect to by all chemists in the district.

Glasgow and the West.

Mr. David Watson, chemist and druggist, Sinclair Drive, Langside, has opened his new premises at Giffnock, a rising suburb of Glasgow.

The Glasgow Corporation have decided to confer the honorary freedom of the city on Lord Lister, Lord Blythwood, and Mr. Cameron Corbett, M.P.

At a meeting of the Scottish Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, held in the Technical College, Glasgow, on December 2, Mr. Harry Dunlop read a paper on "The Testing of Sperm Oil and Spermaceti."

Mr. Peter Fenton, chemist and druggist, and Secretary of the Glasgow School of Pharmacy, has been re-elected President of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the British Empire Naturalists' Association.

A fire broke out on December 2 in the consulting rooms of Dr. Kerr, in Bath Street, Glasgow, and damage estimated at 1,500*l.* was done before it was subdued. Another fire occurred on the same day at Denny, in the Castonhall Chemical works, and considerable damage was done, the loss not being insured against.

The annual price-list of Cockburn & Co., Ltd., just issued, contains a well-written and profusely illustrated article on "The Old and the New" in the preparation of medicines. It deals with improvements in manufacture in medicine and pharmacy during the past thirty years, and there are illustrations of the chemical laboratories, manufacturing plant, etc., in use in the company's business.

Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club.

The sixteenth annual "smoker" of this club was held in the Carlton Hotel, Edinburgh, on December 2. There

was a representative attendance, numbering about 200, over whom Mr. John T. Coats, honorary President of the Club, presided. Among those present were Dr. Coull, Messrs. Rutherford, Hill, Boa, Forret, Rowland, Stephenson, and W. L. Beaumont. A varied and interesting programme of songs, recitations, and instrumental selections was submitted. Messrs. Tait, Nicol, Stephenson, Taylor, Kemp, Timms, Grieve, and Fred Severn were the principal performers. The prizes won in the various sections during the summer were presented to the successful competitors. An enjoyable evening was brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. J. P. Gibb.

Business Change.

Mr. Henry Peterkin has begun business as a chemist and druggist at 16 Commerce Street, Elgin.

Welsh News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the Trade are always welcomed by the Editor, who also invites reports on business changes and other trade matters.

On Holiday.

Mr. R. Drane, the *doyen* of Cardiff pharmacists, left home on November 28 for a prolonged tour through Egypt.

Poisoning Charge.

The young married woman Mary Ann Griffin, of Black Pill, near Swansea, who was arrested on a charge of attempting to murder her husband, has been committed for trial. It is alleged that prisoner made two attempts on the life of her husband, first putting into his tea a powder containing sulphate of zinc, and then, when he went home ill, giving him carbolic acid.

A Sorry Joke.

Two young men named Loveday and Forrest, employed as galvanisers at Pontypool, asked a fellow-workman named Price to have a drink, and gave him a bottle which was afterwards proved to have contained dilute sulphuric acid. But whether it was administered as a practical joke or with intent to injure or annoy did not seem to be clear, and the Magistrate sent the men for trial.

French News.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

M. JUNGLEISCH is likely to be the successor of Berthelot as Professor of Organic Chemistry at the College of France.

A NEW GLUCOSIDE, verbenalin, isolated from officinal vervain, was presented in a pure and crystallised form to the Paris Society of Pharmacy at their last meeting by M. Bourquelot, Professor of Galenical Pharmacy at the Paris Superior School.

FRANCO-CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.—Under the new arrangement French perfumes, medicinal wines, spirits used for dyes or medicaments, all compound medicinal preparations, Marsilles soap, pomades, and perfumery will benefit by the "intermediary" Canadian tariff.

DR. LANDOUZY, the newly appointed Dean of the Paris Faculty of Medicine, received the hearty congratulations of his colleagues at the Academy of Sciences last week. He afterwards read a curious essay on "Touching for the King's Evil in France and in England," founded on documents he had discovered in the Bibliothèque Nationale and the British Museum Library.

MERCURIAL OIL.—The formula of "huile grise" which has been drawn up for the new Codex was criticised by Dr. Lafay at the November meeting of the Paris Society of Pharmacy. He proposed to omit the ethereal tincture of benzoïn and to substitute lanolin or vaselin, to measure the mercury by volume (40 centigrams per c.c.) instead of by weight of the finished medicament. M. Voiry replied, on behalf of his colleagues of the Fourth Committee, that it was to secure a simple and undoubtedly aseptic formula that they rejected lanolin. Dosage by volume is, he added, all very well in theory, but in practice it requires a tem-

perature of 35° C. M. Dumesnil supported Dr. Lafay, and stated that he uses 100 grams of mercury, 40 of lanolin, and sufficient vaselin oil to make up 250 c.c. This can be prepared at ordinary temperatures and readily lends itself to volumetric dosage. A committee of five members (MM. Lafay, Voiry, Dumesnil, Patein, and Herissey) was appointed to study and report on the proposed modification.

THE BLOIS POISONING CASE.—Fernand Leborre, a pharmacist's assistant, was tried at Blois last week for the murder of his employer. This young man of twenty-one was apprenticed to M. Blanc, pharmacist, at Blois, in December 1906. The relations between the employer and his assistant never appear to have been very cordial, the former rating Leborre frequently and soundly for sluggishness and carelessness, the latter, stubborn and vindictive, saying little, but nursing his wrath till it suggested to him a dastardly crime. On May 3 last the pharmacist noticed a singularly bitter flavour in the Vichy water which he habitually drank at his meals. He remarked this to his wife, and expired a few minutes later. The beverage contained strychnine. Leborre at first denied, but subsequently admitted, his crime and its motive. He confessed at the trial that he had premeditated it for several days, that at 8 A.M. on the date indicated he took a vial of strychnine sulphate from the poison-cupboard, and poured about one-third of its contents into the bottle of Vichy water uncorked the night before for M. Blanc's personal use. The pharmacist sat down to table at noon, as usual, and immediately asked for the bottle. The tragedy then occurred. Leborre's callous attitude throughout the whole affair and at the trial was explained by medical witnesses for the defence as a proof of his limited moral and mental responsibility: he was, in their opinion, an "hereditary degenerate," whose youth had been "one long series of illnesses," commencing with brain fever. The jury seemed to dispute this view, bringing in a verdict of guilty, and refusing extenuating circumstances. Sentence of death was passed in the usual form; but whether it will be actually carried out is highly uncertain in view of recent incidents, which seem to show that the guillotine is unlikely to be utilised in France during the present President's term of office.

New Zealand News.

MR. BEALE'S REPORT.—The report of the Royal Commission in Australia on Secret Drugs, Cures, and Foods was laid upon the table of the New Zealand Legislative Council on September 11. The Attorney-General thought it would be admitted by everyone that it was a report of much importance, and the question of printing the document would be favourably considered by the Government.

A CUSTOMS ANOMALY has shown itself in New Zealand. The tariff imposed a duty of 3*d.* per lb. on printed matter, intended to protect New Zealand printers. Someone in the Customs Department struck the idea of charging duty on the printed wrappers and printed boxes in which soaps and other articles are imported. Messrs. Kempthorne, Prosser & Co. (New Zealand Drug Co.) imported 150*l.* worth of Colgate Cashmere soap. They paid the duty of 25 per cent. on the *ad val.*, but the Customs officials took off the wrappers and boxes from a certain quantity of the soap and found that on the whole consignment of 150*l.* worth these wrappers and boxes would weigh 8 lb., on which they charged an extra duty of 2*s.* A protest has been made to the Minister of Customs.

QUACKERY-PREVENTION BILL.—We referred to the recommendations of the Committee in regard to this Bill in last week's issue (p. 816). Since then particulars are to hand as to the witnesses examined by the Committee. These included a spiritualist, a herbalist, a homeopath, a metaphysician, a mental healer, and a veterinary surgeon; but apparently no proprietary-medicine proprietor or pharmacist. Dr. J. M. Mason, chief health officer, Wellington, gave evidence, in which he said that the vast majority of the patent medicines on the market which are not absolutely harmful are simply formulæ which had been taken from some standard books of medicine, or the pre-

scription of some medical man. The class of men Dr. Mason was most interested in are those who charge more money than the medicine is worth. Those people who claimed to cure sexual ailments also received considerable attention from the witness, who said the majority are nothing more than blackmailers. . . . As to placing the formulæ on the bottles or packages, he thought that everything that contained poison should be so marked. He was not entirely wedded to the publication of the formulæ, but would be satisfied to have the formulæ deposited with the Board or in his office. Mr. Hannan, the Chairman of the Committee, referring to a recommendation that medicine-advertisements should be prohibited if a Judge of the Supreme Court held that the medicine was harmful or fraudulent, said that it would be for the health officer to apply to the Supreme Court. The burden would be on him to prove that the medicine or preparation was worthless or of a fraudulent nature or not calculated to do the good that was claimed for it. If he could not prove this the Judge would not grant an injunction suppressing the advertisement. The formulæ of nearly all patent medicines are known. Many proprietary medicines owned by reputable firms have their contents set forth on the label, and the biggest sellers of standard medicines set out the contents of their compounds on the label. The Committee recommended that this should be made compulsory for all medicines unless supplied in accordance with a duly registered medical man's prescription or that it was proved to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court Judge that the medicine was an original and secret one not harmful to health or of a fraudulent nature, and could be used with safety by un-informed persons. Dr. Cahill, of Wellington, said that a remedy for obesity which retailed at 6*s.* was intrinsically worth 2*d.* Pills for anæmia sold wholesale to chemists at 27*s.* a dozen boxes containing about 2½ gross of pills, are made for 1*s.* 6*d.* a gross and are sold at 2*s.* 6*d.* a box to poor girls employed in shops. What is sold wholesale at 27*s.* could be sold over the counter at 2*s.* 6*d.* a gross with a very fair profit. Drugs which are absolutely harmful are mostly liquids, the sale of which depends largely upon the amount of alcohol they contain. The Hansard report of the evidence is not yet published. It is stated that 1,500 copies are to be printed, but that a much larger demand is expected.

South African News.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondents.)

Note.—"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of all the Pharmaceutical Societies in British South Africa, viz.:

South African Pharmaceutical Association.
Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony.
Natal Pharmaceutical Society.
Transvaal Pharmaceutical Society.
Rhodesia Pharmaceutical Society.
Northern District Chemists' Association.
Pharmaceutical Society of Orange River Colony.

Cape Colony.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Robert R. Martin, of Messrs. Martin, Elgar, Ltd., Cape Town, is expected to arrive in South Africa towards the end of December.—Mr. T. W. Tullett, manager in South Africa for Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Africa), Ltd., is on a short visit to the Old Country, and may be addressed care of the London house.

Rhodesia.

A NEW RHODESIAN PHARMACY.—Messrs. Smart, Wilkins & Co. have recently opened a pharmacy in the new township of Que Que, the district in which the Globe and Phoenix Mine (the largest gold producer in Rhodesia) and several other important gold-mines are situated. This is the first and only store in the "town," and is truly "a pharmacy in the veldt," for there are no streets as yet, and the other stores in the neighbourhood do not "remove," which in Rhodesia frequently means "shift bodily," on to the town site until January 1908. The photograph shows Mr. H. W. Smart in front of the shop and the nigger errand-boy.

The hours of business, as announced on the door—viz., 8.30 to 1 and 2 to 5, Saturdays 8.30 to 1, and Sundays closed—would make many a home chemist sigh for Que Que hours, but "emergency" frequently causes a wide diver-



gence from these times. Mr. Smart was formerly in business at Bulawayo with Mr. Copley (Smart & Copley), and Mr. Wilkins is of Wilkins & Co., Selukwe.

Transvaal.

ANOTHER LABELLING CASE.—At Johannesburg on November 9, a charge was preferred against William Charles Godding, chemist and druggist, 114 Marshall Street, of contravening section 55, subsection *a* of Ordinance 29 of 1904, and of contravening the fourth sub-section of section 55 of the same Ordinance, in that, on July 27, he, being a registered chemist, it was alleged, sold and delivered to one Frances Alewyn Viljoen a bottle of strychnine, failing to label it with the word "Poison" or with his name as that of the seller. He was further charged with failing to enter the poison sold in his book and to specify the ingredients, quantity sold, and purpose for which such poison was required. An application was made to adjourn the case *sine die*, and this application was granted in view of the fact that an appeal was pending in a parallel case.

SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.—At the Congress held in the Town Hall, Pretoria, from October 14 to October 19, there was the usual exhibition, in which various well-known drug-houses took part. The exhibit of Allen & Hanburys (Africa), Ltd., included their well-known pharmaceutical and dietetic specialities. Among the latest of these the medical profession were most interested in Trypsin, Novocain (the new local anæsthetic), and



Dioxogen, an antiseptic of great germicidal value. In addition to these, a very interesting display of aseptic hospital furniture was made, including operating-tables, instrument-cabinets, as well as antiseptic dressings, surgical instruments and appliances; also various kinds of antitoxins and serums. Other firms exhibiting were Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co., Messrs. Oppenheimer, Son & Co., and Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

TRANSVAAL PHARMACY BOARD.

THURSDAY, December 12, has been fixed as the last day for voting for three chemists and druggists as members of the Transvaal Pharmacy Board. The Governor-in-Council has nominated Mr. B. Owen Jones, M.L.A., and Mr. J. R. Jones. The appointments are for three years from January 1, 1908.

A largely attended meeting of registered chemists and druggists of the Pretoria district was held in the Grand Hotel on November 5, Mr. J. R. Jones presiding. The meeting was called to hear an address by Mr. J. H. Dinwoodie, President of the Pharmacy Board, a candidate at the forthcoming triennial election. Mr. Dinwoodie dealt in his address with the education of pharmacy students in South Africa, the standard of examination, and the administration of the Pharmacy Ordinance during the past three years. A vote of confidence in Mr. Dinwoodie was passed.

A meeting of registered chemists was held at the Trocadero, Johannesburg, on November 8, at 9 p.m. The meeting was called by the Pharmaceutical Society to select candidates for the Pharmacy Board. Over forty chemists were present, and Mr. A. Rennie, President of the Pharmaceutical Society, was in the chair. Mr. Dinwoodie, President of the Board, was first asked to speak. He said he was pleased to see such a large number of chemists present, and it gave him great pleasure to have the opportunity of meeting them all. When the Board were elected three years ago they had a big task before them: they had everything to start from the very beginning—there was no examination-room, and the present syllabus and regulations had to be drafted. This was not an easy matter, as they had two sides to please—those who wanted an easy examination and others who wanted it difficult. The first examination was carried out under difficulties, as they had not a complete collection of materia medica specimens and very little equipment of any kind; still, he looked back on that examination with pride, as everything was conducted very satisfactorily, in spite of the difficulties presented. The granting of licences to country stores to sell patent medicines containing poisons was much against the wish of the Board, but they had to yield; still, in the country districts, the chemist had not suffered much in consequence. He was pleased to note that the Colonial Secretary had now given instructions that these licences be limited as much as possible. He also mentioned his visit to Europe and his presence at the various examining centres. The President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain had promised that in the event of reciprocity the Transvaal certificate would be among the first to be accepted in view of their high standard of examination.—Mr. Robert Butters, another member of the Board, also spoke, dealing with the financial side of the Board's work. He considered that in a short time they would require assistance from the Government, as the number of registrations and candidates for examination would continue to fall away.—Mr. Charles Keir, who was elected on the Board early in the present year to fill the place of the late Mr. Skinn, gave a short *résumé* of the work done during his term of office. Nominations were then called for, and the following seven gentlemen were nominated as candidates for the three seats on the new Board: Messrs. D. L. Behrman, J. H. Dinwoodie, R. Butters, C. Keir, R. Q. Leeds, A. S. Smith, and L. Thomas—all of Johannesburg.

An unofficial report states that on the motion of Mr. Rawlinson, seconded by Mr. A. S. Smith, the absence of the Government nominees (Mr. B. O. Jones and Mr. J. R. Jones) from the meeting was disapproved; and, further, that Mr. Dinwoodie was severely heckled by Messrs. Rawlinson, Ashkanazy, and Behrman, and the other candidates were also heckled. Mr. Dinwoodie said, in reply to a question, that a South African examining board sitting alternately in Cape Town and Johannesburg should be their ultimate aim. A conference of the various Boards would be the best means of introducing the subject. The other questions had reference to the local examination, reciprocity, and what is an "industrial poison?"

AND SO SAY ALL OF THEM.—A subscriber (38/18) writes on December 4, 1907: "Cheque enclosed for C. & D. Cannot get along without it."

"MOXA."—The Acting Commissioner of Customs at Wuchow states in his annual report that "Moxa," a soft woolly mass prepared from the young leaves of the *Artemisia Chinensis*, appeared for the first time in the export returns of that port in the year 1904, the quantity exported being 12 piculs, valued at 2,100 Hk. taels. In 1906 the export increased to 280 piculs, valued at 49,000 Hk. taels. Its cultivation has only recently been introduced at Tengyün and Sünchow. It is much prized by the Chinese for its medicinal qualities, and is used externally in the cure of colds and fever. As it is practically a new industry in these districts and a new export through the native Customs, it will be interesting, says Mr. Russell, to watch its future development.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE public business of Wednesday's meeting only occupied three-quarters of an hour, and none of the questions which called the councillors from all parts of the country could be called momentous. The President made appropriate reference to the death of Mr. N. M. Grose (Swansea), who was formerly a member of the Council, his remarks being echoed by the Treasurer, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Hagon. The Benevolent Fund has benefited by a legacy of 100*l.* from the estate of the late Mr. J. R. Young (Edinburgh), and the Leeds Chemists' Association sent the handsome donation of 41*l.*, the result of a special local collection. Some 33*l.* was granted to five needy applicants. The Halifax Chemists' Association sent some interesting suggestions in regard to the poison-schedule as the result of a paper by Mr. Gibson Dixon on the anomalies of that portion of the Pharmacy Act. The Inland Revenue authorities have agreed to recognise the Society's "Codex" as a standard work of reference under the Medicine-stamp Acts, but could not agree to give a general exemption to all possessive-name medicines mentioned therein. The letter called forth a short discussion, which resulted in the communication being referred to the Law Committee. The Privy Council sent a formal approval of the altered by-laws, and the President said a few soothing words intended to reach to the North of the Tweed. A committee was appointed to consider what alterations can be made in the regulations for examinations.

THE usual monthly meeting took place on December 4 at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. There were present the President (Mr. J. R. Young), Vice-President (Mr. J. F. Harrington), Treasurer (Mr. Walter Hills), and Messrs. C. B. Allen, A. S. Campkin, M. Carteighe, W. G. Cross, W. L. Currie, W. H. Gibson, R. L. Gifford, A. Hagon, J. Harrison, A. E. Hobbs, G. T. W. Newsholme, P. F. Rowsell, A. Southall, D. Storrar, C. Symes, E. White, and A. C. Wootton.

THE LATE MR. GROSE.

The first business after the minutes had been disposed of was a reference from the chair to the death of Mr. N. M. Grose, Swansea.

THE PRESIDENT said Mr. Grose was of a very amiable and retiring disposition. He rarely addressed the Council, but did much work in committee. Mr. Grose attended the festival dinner in May, and many of his friends were shocked to notice how much he had fallen away in health. The death of his wife, which had occurred some months previously, had affected him greatly.

MR. ALLEN spoke of Mr. Grose as a personal friend, and said that since his retirement from the Council he had retained his interest in his old colleagues. He was a good, thorough-working pharmacist, and made all the galenicals he could in his own laboratory. Mr. Grose took great interest in the issue of the "Codex," and distributed a good many copies among the medical men of the district. Mr. Allen then gave particulars of the funeral, which he attended as representing the Society. The ceremony was largely attended by fellow-townsmen and Freemasons.

THE TREASURER referred to Mr. Grose as one of his contemporaries, they having passed the Minor and Major in the same year, although not on the same days.

MR. HAGON said that Mr. Grose "kept the flickering lamp of pharmacy alight in his part of the country."

The President was asked to write a letter of sympathy to the relatives.

FINANCE.

After two members had been restored to the Society and two chemists to the register,

THE VICE-PRESIDENT moved the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee. The receipts during the month were as follows:

Penalties and costs	...	...	...	£58	1	4
Subscriptions	...	...	...	25	14	6
"Pharm. Journal" and publications	3,099	18	7
Registration-fees	144	18	0
Restoration-fees	5	5	0
Rent	54	12	6
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				£3,388	9	11

After paying the amounts authorised at the last meeting a sum of 1,225*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* remains with which to liquidate the following amounts recommended for payment:

"Journal" and publications	...	...	...	£1,231	16	9
House expenses	...	...	...	231	3	7
Stationery, etc.	...	...	...	27	13	0
Current expenses	350	0	0
Salaries, etc.	779	11	8
School and examinations	74	18	6
Law-charges	25	5	6
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				£2,720	9	0

The Benevolent Fund balances were as follows:

Current account	£966	12	5
Donation account	...	...	...	164	0	6
Orphan Fund	...	...	...	75	15	8

From the current account 79*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* has to be deducted for printing and interest on borrowed money.

THE Vice-President's comments included a mention of 100*l.* legacy from the estate of the late Mr. J. R. Young (Edinburgh), 41*l.* as the result of a special collection by the Leeds Chemists' Association, and one guinea from the Swansea Chemists' Association. He also stated that the accountant had made his quarterly examination of the Society's books and given a report that they were correct.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

THE Treasurer was authorised to pay a quarter's pension to the annuitants who will be elected in December.

After a consideration of the report of the Benevolent Fund Committee in committee,

MR. CROSS moved its adoption. Grants amounting to 83*l.* were made to five applicants. Mr. Cross also announced that the boy P. V. Dunn, for whom an appeal for votes was made some time ago, had been elected to the Wanstead Orphanage, adding that much of the success was due to the efforts of Mr. Bremridge. The appeal for votes on behalf of the boy Rees, who is seeking admission to the Watford Orphanage, was also renewed. A request was made on behalf of the widow of a chemist who requires lodgers at her house in Cricklewood. It was thought that students would be glad to hear of such apartments.

The report was adopted.

SCHOOL MATTERS.

THE report of the Library, Museum, School, and House-Committee, which was brought up by the TREASURER, dealt mainly with school matters. Repairs and alterations were required, and there was a requisition amounting to 36*l.* for material for teaching botany. The students were given permission to use the examination-hall for a whist-drive on December 6.

The report was adopted without comments.

ORGANISATION.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT next brought up the report of the Committee on Organisation, which mentioned the meetings held at Manchester, Nottingham, Preston, and Leeds. The Public Dispensers' Association asked if one of the members of the committee would address the Association, but this was found to be impracticable owing to other engagements.

MR. GIFFORD said the committee had been much encouraged by the success of the meetings.

THE PRESIDENT: They are distinctly productive of good.

Mr. HAGON : What decision has been come to in regard to the Welsh meeting?

The VICE-PRESIDENT : That will be discussed later.

The report was adopted.

SUPERINTENDENTS APPOINTED.

Superintendents and deputy-superintendents of written examinations were appointed as follows : London, C. B. Allen and H. Moon; Edinburgh, C. F. Henry and J. Nesbit; Manchester, H. Kemp and C. Swinn.

LETTERS.

The Privy Council confirmed the appointments of examiners, and the examiners wrote thanking the Council for appointing them.

Dr. Bottle thanked the Council for their letter of sympathy on the death of his father.

The Association of Women Pharmacists and the London Chemists' Association thanked the Council for the use of the lecture-theatre for meetings held in November. The TREASURER referred to the former Association. He was at the meeting, and was asked to convey the thanks of the Association to the Council.

The Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board sent a copy of the regulations for 1908, at the same time calling attention to a slight alteration in the supervision of the examinations.

POISON SCHEDULE.

The Halifax Chemists' Association transmitted a resolution suggesting modification of the Poison Schedule on the basis of the percentage of poisonous principles in the substance sold; a definition was also required of a metallic cyanide. [The suggestions were contained in a paper by Mr. Gibson Dixon, which was epitomised in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, November 9, p. 730.]

THE SOCIETY'S "CODEX."

The SECRETARY reported that he had addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Inland Revenue, asking that the "British Pharmaceutical Codex" be recognised under the Medicine-stamp Acts as an authority for "known, admitted, and approved" remedies. The letter also asked whether the indication "B.P.C." could be recognised, and if medicines described in that work by possessive names could be sold free from liability in the same way as Bland's pills. The Board replied consenting to recognise the book as a standard work, and stated that the letters "B.P.C." would be taken as indication of the source of medicines contained therein. In regard to the last part of the Secretary's letter the reply (26678 S.) was as follows :

Medicines described in the "British Pharmaceutical Codex" by names in the possessive case cannot be regarded as free from liability to duty by reason of their publication in the "Codex," even if it be claimed that they are of a non-proprietary character. With regard to preparations of this nature in which an ostensible claim to a proprietary right is set up, the Board, before sanctioning their sale unstamped, require that the ostensible claim should be rebutted not by disclosure of the formula in a well-known book of reference, but also by the production to them of evidence that the article is, in fact, a well-known medicine the composition of which is familiar to chemists in general, and that the name included in the description never has carried with it any claim either to exclusive right of sale of the article or to exclusive knowledge in connection with its preparation. The only articles as to which the Board have as yet been satisfied on these points are Bland's pills, Gregory's powder, liver-pills (Sir Andrew Clark), Hamilton's pills, Christison's pills, and Dobell's aperient.

The matter then dropped, but before the conclusion of the meeting

Mr. WOOTTON asked whether the reply was to go before the Law Committee.

The PRESIDENT : The information does not seem to require comment.

Mr. WOOTTON : The letter is rather important. Was it patented preparations the Secretary had in mind when writing?

Mr. WHITE : It was mostly synonyms.

Mr. WOOTTON said it was important to make the distinction, as if patented preparations are referred to the Board would never give consent. Were any special articles in the category of Bland's pills or Gregory's powder in view?

Mr. ROWSELL : Such as Easton's syrup.

Dr. SYMES : The letter seems to invite further reply. Would it be worth furnishing the evidence asked for?

Mr. HARRISON said as he understood the letter the Board did not want to give a general permission. It was only where proprietary medicines are concerned that permission would be doubtful, but this could not apply in the case of Easton's syrup.

Mr. WOOTTON : That is exactly what they do not say. A list is given of the articles that are recognised.

Mr. ROWSELL suggested that the letter be considered by the Law Committee, and this was agreed to.

PRESTON'S QUESTIONS.

The Preston Chemists' Association submitted a batch of questions respecting the interpretation of the Medicine-stamp Acts and the Pharmacy Act.

1. In regard to stamped medicines containing scheduled poison, is it sufficient to label the outer wrapper with the name and address of the seller, or should these be placed on the bottle or package itself?

2. Are confectioners who sell cough-lozenges from a 4-lb. box exempt from stamp-duty, an ailment being mentioned in the title?

3. Does Section 3 of the Pharmacy Act, 1869, exempt medical men from affixing their name and address to the medicines they sell?

The Association also added that the "Pharmaceutical Journal" would be more useful if made more commercial.

The Law Committee are going to answer the above conundrums.

Mr. David Hooper wrote from India thanking the Society for the honour that had been conferred on him in awarding him the Hanbury medal. He added that the information had been telegraphed out and appeared in every paper in India : the publicity given was sufficient to satisfy the ambition of any man.

THE NEW BY-LAWS.

The formal assent of the Privy Council to the new by-laws was read. The official document, duly sealed and couched in legal phraseology, was read by the SECRETARY, after which

The PRESIDENT said this was an extremely satisfactory conclusion to what had been a difficult and not altogether pleasant negotiation. The opposition to the by-laws was, he was sure, based on a misapprehension, and not with any desire to be obstructive. Now that the appeal to Caesar had shown that the fears were groundless, he hoped that the feeling of irritation would be allowed to pass into oblivion. The only design in making the alteration was to facilitate business and economise time. Continuing, the President said that the work was somewhat in arrears in regard to the examination regulations, but it was now proposed to put the machinery created by the by-laws in motion. He proposed that "The Committee on Examination and Education be requested to consider and report on the regulations for examinations as now held."

Mr. HARRISON suggested that as it was not a purely historical report that was required, some words should be added to the reference as to alterations found to be necessary.

The PRESIDENT agreed to add the words "with a view to suggesting modifications where found necessary." He asked Mr. Currie and Mr. Storror to intimate to the Secretary when it would be convenient to them to attend a meeting of the committee.

This concluded the public business.

THE ANTI-OPIMUM CURE.—Dr. C. A. McBride, medical superintendent of the Meda Lodge Sanatorium for Inebriety, reports on five cases of confirmed morphinomaniacs successfully treated with *Combretum sundaicum*, the Malayan anti-opium cure. The plant was shown by Dr. Harrison Martindale at the B.P.C. meeting at Manchester, and is on view at Dr. Martindale's stall at the Medical Exhibition this week. Dr. McBride's report on the cases mentioned is being issued in the form of a pamphlet by the Society for the suppression of the Opium Trade, and anyone writing to the Rev. G. A. Wilson, secretary of the Society, at 181 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., will receive a pamphlet, while sample trial packets of the "Combretum" drug-cure (1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 5s. post free) may likewise be obtained from the Society.

Festivities.

At Bolton.

THE members of the Bolton Chemists' Association spent a pleasant evening at dinner and whist at Talbot's Rooms on November 27.

Sangers Dine.

THE annual dinner of "Sangers," 258 Euston Road, London, N.W., took place at Reggiori's on November 30. A large number of the house and travelling staff were present, also members of the firm, including Mr. E. Sanger (Chairman), Mr. H. Sanger, Mr. A. Pulford, Mr. D. Smith, and Mr. S. H. Carr. The musical part of the programme, mainly contributed by the staff, was most successful, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. E. Sanger made a most efficient chairman, and greatly amused the company by his witty remarks and capital anecdotes. The evening finished with "Auld Lang Syne" at a late hour.

Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association.

MR. FLANDERS invited the members to a social gathering at his residence at Mill Road, on Thursday, November 28. About twenty guests assembled, and for three hours Mr. Flanders generously and hospitably entertained the company. Songs were contributed by Messrs. Church, Greensmith, Missen, Liddiard, and Neale. The President (Mr. B. S. Campkin) proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Flanders, and the company drank his health with musical honours. Mr. Flanders acknowledged the toast. Amongst those present were Messrs. H. F. Cook, J.P., E. S. Peck, M.A., Beale, Church, Course, Coulson, Deck, Evans, Flanders, jun., Greensmith, Liddiard, Moss, Missen, Mallett, Neale, Pain, Peters, and Palmer.

Whist at York.

THE members of the York and District Chemists' Association and a large number of friends had a most enjoyable and successful whist-drive in the Davy Hall, York, on November 28. All the arrangements were admirably carried out by the committee, consisting of President, Mr. M. F. Burgin; Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Lupton; Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. C. Atkinson, Messrs. W. Dewhurst, F. A. Newey, T. E. Batty, W. P. Saville, W. Sowray, and G. E. Woodhouse. Forty-two tables were occupied; play commenced at nine o'clock and continued well into the morning. During the interval an excellent musical programme was gone through, which was thoroughly appreciated by everyone, those contributing to the harmony being Mrs. Batty, Miss Daisy Sample, and Messrs. F. W. Wilson, E. Gifton, Watson Hirst, and A. Sample, all of whom had to respond to encores. The prizes, as last year, were won by friends outside the pharmaceutical circle. Mrs. Burgin presented the prizes to the winners. A vote of thanks to the committee was heartily accorded.

Hewlett's Social.

THE chair at the annual social evening of the staff of Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Son, Charlotte Street, E.C., was taken by Mr. Vivian C. Hewlett on November 30, when a large party sat down to an excellent dinner at Kohler's Broad Street House Restaurant, E.C. After the loyal toasts had been duly honoured, that of "Success to the Firm" was proposed by Mr. A. Street, and suitably acknowledged by the Chairman, who referred to the steady progress made in all departments, which would necessitate early building operations on the Curtain Road property, so as to afford the necessary room for expansion. The smoking-concert opened with a pianoforte solo, admirably played by Mr. F. W. Hull, who was also the accompanist during the evening. Special mention should be made of the humorous songs by Messrs. Will Cragg, Willie Webb, and the brothers Jones, which evoked great amusement and much applause. The descriptive songs by Mr. Albert Stanton were also greatly appreciated. A highly successful concert was concluded about 11 p.m. by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." The arrangements, as usual, were in the hands of Mr. H. Gillard, hon. secretary, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Whist at Richmond.

THE first whist-drive of the season of the Thames Valley Chemists' Association was held at Richmond on December 4. There was a good attendance of members, including Messrs. Parrott (President), Harvey, Clement A. Higgs, J. P. Evans, Barnett, Palmer, Ive, Lloyd, Peake, in all, with their wives and daughters, numbering about seventy.

The President welcomed the company in a nice little speech, after which the company commenced play in earnest. A stop was made midway, and light refreshments were served. When the twenty-four rounds had been completed a total was made of the numbers, when the ladies' first prize was found to belong to Mrs. Lee; second prize, Miss K. Peake; third prize, Mrs. D. Arnold; consolation prize, Miss Smith. The gentlemen's first prize fell to the lot of Mr. T. Evans; second prize, Mr. Parrott, jun.; third prize, Mr. Leather. The prizes were subsequently handed to the winners by Miss Smith, a relative of the President. A vote of thanks concluded a most enjoyable evening. The next whist-drive will take place in February.

A Complimentary Dinner.

THE coming of age of Mr. Frederick Hartridge Branson was celebrated on November 30, when Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Branson entertained the members of the staff of Reynolds & Branson, Ltd., to dinner at Powlneys. Invitations were accepted by upwards of 100, and there were also present Miss Branson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hartridge, of London, Mrs. Pepper, and Mr. Eric Holt, of Cambridge. Mr. F. W. Branson was in the chair, and was supported by Messrs. J. H. Gough, F. Islip, F. J. Read, and J. N. Greenhalgh. After the loyal toast had been honoured, Mr. Eric Holt proposed "The health of Mr. F. H. Branson." Mr. J. H. Hartridge gave "Reynolds & Branson, Ltd.," and Mr. F. W. Branson in responding made sympathetic allusion to the death of his late co-director (Mr. Fred Reynolds). Messrs. J. H. Gough, F. Islip, and F. J. Read also replied to the toast. Mr. F. J. Read, on behalf of the staff, presented to Mr. F. H. Branson a set of Scott's "Waverley" novels bound in half morocco. A most enjoyable musical programme was contributed by the guests and the staff, Mr. E. Biltcliff accompanying. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Branson brought a very successful evening to a close.

A Cricketers' Dinner.

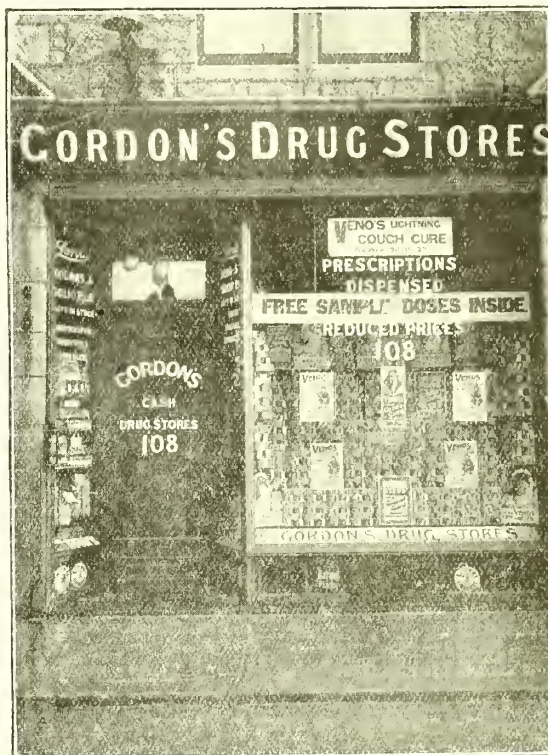
THERE was a gay and festive gathering of the members and friends of Baiss Brothers & Stevenson's Cricket Club at the White Swan Hotel, Coleman Street, E.C., on November 29, when (continues our correspondent, poetically) "all thoughts of November's fogs and muddy streets were forgotten, and the picture conjured up was that of green fields and springy turf under blue skies." It was the first annual dinner and smoking concert of the club. In the unavoidable absence of the popular President, Mr. Arnold Baiss, the duties of chairman were admirably carried out by Mr. Alexander Boyes, with Mr. A. Scates in the vice-chair. The company in all numbered about fifty. The post-prandial proceedings included a musical programme, in which the delightful singing of Miss May Lusty was especially appreciated. The toast of the evening, "The Club," was proposed by the Chairman in his usual genial style. Mr. Harry Fifield, the captain, briefly replied. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "The Firm" (which was enthusiastically received and accorded musical honours), said that the members of the Cricket Club owed the directors a deep debt of gratitude for their generosity towards them. The whole of the outfit of the club had been presented by the firm, who had also altered the time of closing on Saturdays to suit the convenience of the members. Other contributors to the musical programme besides the lady already mentioned were Messrs. Conway, Cyril Lusty, Bert Sydney, Harry Fifield, Robert Wilson, J. Edwards, A. Cullen, and G. Green. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to the artists, and to Messrs. Fifield, Sheath, and Weeden (the organisers of the affair). An enjoyable evening was brought to a conclusion by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King."

Sunderland Dinner.

THE annual dinner of the Sunderland Chemists' Association was held on November 27 at the Grand Hotel, Bridge Street, when about fifty sat down. The President (Mr. A. D. Purse) occupied the chair, supported on his right by the Mayor (Councillor W. Walker), Alderman Harrison, J.P., Dr. Renney (medical officer of health), and on his left by Messrs. T. Maltby Clague and W. Pescod (President and Secretary of the Newcastle Association). The Chairmen of the spur-tables were Mr. E. R. Cherrett (Vice-President), Mr. J. Mitchinson (Treasurer), and Mr. R. H. Bell. Among others present were Mr. J. Ismay (J. Ismay & Sons), Mr. W. Kerse (J. Ismay & Sons), Mr. J. Park (Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd.), Mr. C. Layne (Hon. Solicitor, Newcastle Association), and Mr. J. Rutherford (J. Ismay & Sons). Among local chemists present were Messrs. C. Ranken, F.C.S., T. Walton, G. P. Fairman, H. S. Corder, A. H. M. Purse, A. W. Golightly, O. Hutchinson, J. G. Harrison, W. Nimmo, R. Robinson, J. W. Todd, C. Hodgson, and the Secretary (R. Anderson, F.C.S.). After dinner the loyal toast was proposed by the President. This having been duly honoured, the Mayor, after an apology for his late arrival, in a short speech proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society." In replying, Alderman Harrison gave a short sketch of the work done by the Society during the past year, and also made reference to the issuing of the "Codex." "The Mayor and Corporation" was proposed by Mr. E. R. Cherrett, who referred to the good work done by the Mayor on behalf of the unemployed. The Mayor, in reply, said there was undoubtedly a lot of distress in the town, but nothing like the greatly exaggerated reports which had appeared in the daily papers. "The Sunderland Chemists' and Kindred Associations" was proposed by Mr. C. Layne, and replied to by Mr. R. H. Bell, who referred to the work done by the Sunderland Association during the year and the recent examination of apprentices for the Burroughs Wellcome prize (see p. 863). Mr. T. Maltby Clague also replied, and asked the support of the Sunderland Association in inviting the British Pharmaceutical Conference to visit its birthplace in the year 1909. The President next referred to the Delaval Cup, which was shown round, and which was won in the tug-of-war between the Newcastle and Sunderland Associations at the summer outing, and hoped it would long remain on the south side of the Tyne. Mr. T. Walton next proposed "The Visitors," to which Mr. T. Milburn replied. There was a long and excellent programme of music, etc., to which the following contributed: Mr. E. J. Potts, baritone (of Newcastle), who delighted the company with his fine singing; Mr. R. F. Nicholls, tenor. The humorous part was supplied by Messrs. T. Hoffman and J. R. Barrie (Newcastle), also four "turns" supplied by the manager of the Empire Theatre. Mr. C. Layne also gave a recitation. Mr. Williams presided at the piano.

Chemists' Windows.

Contributed by "C. & D." Subscribers. The Editor will be glad to receive photographs of effective window-displays for inclusion in this section. Notes on the displays should accompany the photographs. We pay for what we use.



A Striking Window.

SOME time ago it was reported in our Aberdeen Notes that Gordon's Drug-stores, in George Street, Aberdeen, made a window display of Veno's Lightning Cough Cure. This is the window. It resulted in phenomenal sales of the speciality, and is a good example of the one-article show.

EAST ABERDEENSHIRE CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting of this Association at Maud on November 7 was regarded as an event of importance locally, and Mr. S. Cruickshank, chemist, Turriff, took a photograph of those present, which we reproduce here. The names of the participants (from left to right) are:—*Back row*: Messrs. Wm. Penny (Peterhead), W. J. McGregor (Ellon), J. Alexander (Fraserburgh), Wm. Bremner (Port Errol), Alex. Milne (Maud, Hon. Treasurer), W. W. Cruickshank (Fraserburgh), Jas. Walker (Ellon), Alex. Gall (Fraserburgh), and J. Collie (Peterhead). *Front row*: Messrs. J. R. Low (Fraserburgh, President), Wm. Giles (Aberdeen), D. Storrar (Kirkcaldy), J. Rutherford Hill (Edinburgh), and J. F. Tocher (Peterhead, Hon. Secretary).



Legal Reports.

High Court Cases.

THE CATFORD MEDICAL DISPUTE.

In the King's Bench Division on November 29, before Justices Darling and A. T. Lawrence, Mr. F. E. Smith (instructed by Mr. H. J. Randolph) moved for a rule *nisi* calling upon the President and Registrar of the General Medical Council to show cause why they should not be prohibited from proceeding with an inquiry into a charge which had been preferred against Dr. J. P. Nicolas, of Hither Green. In the alternative the Court was asked to grant a rule *nisi* for a *mandamus* directing the Council to supply to Dr. Nicolas copies of the complaint which had been made against him and of other documents in their possession (see report of the Council on p. 875). Mr. Smith narrated the facts in the case and said that a greater travesty of justice was never perpetrated than the proceedings which took place before the Council on the previous day. An application for a copy of the complaint was refused, the assessor stating that Dr. Nicolas was not entitled to see the complaint or to be supplied with a copy of it. The withholding of the complaint and other documents, said counsel, must jeopardise the case of Dr. Nicolas. It was of the greatest importance that Dr. Nicolas should know whether the complaint was laid before the Council at the instance of his enemy or by some defence union. Mr. Smith submitted that under the rules of the Council Dr. Nicolas was entitled to be shown every single document that was to be laid before the tribunal which was to judge his case. It was true that the document containing the complaint was read at the inquiry, but it was read so quickly that the solicitor who represented Dr. Nicolas could not hear the whole of its contents.—Mr. Justice Darling said he and his learned brother thought that Dr. Nicolas was entitled to a rule for prohibition. Mr. Smith had also asked for a rule for a *mandamus*. As no harm would be done by granting such a rule, they would accede to his request.—Rules for prohibition and *mandamus* granted accordingly.

SWEET LIPS.

In the Chancery Division on Tuesday, December 3, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady had before him an action by Mr. Thomas Kerfoot, pharmaceutical chemist, Ashton-under-Lyne, against Mr. George Ratcliffe and Mr. Robert Davies, to restrain the infringement of plaintiff's registered trade-name, "Sweet Lips," as applied to cachous which he manufactured. The defendant Ratcliffe manufactured similar articles, and Mr. Davies sold them in the way of business. Mr. Sebastian appeared for the plaintiff, and said the defendants had agreed to terms whereby the action was put an end to. The effect of the arrangement was that an injunction was to go on agreed terms, and there was to be an order for the delivery up of the infringing articles, with the payment of an amount to cover damages and costs. Mr. Justice Eady sanctioned the terms.

LIQUID AIR.

In the Chancery Division on Tuesday, December 3, Mr. Justice Warrington concluded the hearing of the action brought by the British Liquid Air Co. to restrain the British Oxygen Co. from threatening with legal proceedings intending users of the plaintiffs' patent for the liquefaction of air and the separation of the oxygen and nitrogen for commercial purposes. Plaintiffs denied that their patent in any way infringed the defendants', and contended that if it did the defendants' patent was invalid. Mr. James Swinburne, Mr. Dougald Clerk, Sir James Dewar, and Professor Boys gave evidence in support of the defendants' case. His Lordship, in giving judgment on Wednesday, said:

The defendants had manufactured in Great Britain oxygen by a process protected by letters patent granted in 1895 and 1902, and the plaintiffs were proposing to manufacture oxygen in this country under a process covered by letters patent dated 1903 and 1905. The defendants alleged that the plaintiffs' process of manufacture would be an infringement of their patent of 1902, and they had, as they admitted, by advertisement, threatened the plaintiffs with the consequences of their proposed manufacture. The action was brought,

therefore, to restrain such threats, and it involved the validity of the defendants' patents and of their alleged infringement by the plaintiffs. The position in that respect had been made quite clear by an agreement between the parties to deal with the matter as if the defendants had counterclaimed for an injunction to restrain the infringement of their patent by the plaintiffs. The issues with which he had to deal were precisely those raised in a patent action where validity was at issue as well as infringement. What was the true meaning of the defendants' specification? The defect in the 1895 process as used for producing oxygen commercially was that the process was wholly evaporation. The purer the oxygen was, the smaller was the quantity got, and as pure oxygen was a very valuable commodity this was a serious defect. The patent of 1902 was to remedy that defect. He was of opinion that the true construction of that specification was that it was a claim for a continuation. It was a claim for a rectifying column, but for a rectifying column in combination with other agents. The claim, therefore, must be construed as a narrow claim. So construed it was unnecessary to consider the various alleged anticipations which had been relied upon. If he had been able to give a wider construction to that specification, and to hold that it might either be a claim to the principle of rectification or a claim to the principle of rectification as applied generally to this particular subject-matter, he thought then he should have been bound to find that a wide claim of that nature would have been defeated by some of those matters which had been relied upon in anticipation—and particularly by the Canadian claim of Le Sueur. That brought him to the question whether the patent so construed would be infringed by the proposed manufacture by the plaintiffs. It was idle to say that the rectifying column in the plaintiffs' patent was the same or performed the same functions as the rectifying column in Lindé's. Though some parts of the plaintiffs' patent might be the same as Lindé, he must come to the conclusion that, as a whole, the plaintiffs' patent was not an infringement. The result, therefore, was that the plaintiffs were entitled to the injunction for which they asked. He could not part with the case without saying he was under the utmost obligation to counsel on both sides, as well as to the expert witnesses, for their endeavours to make him understand such a very abstruse and scientific question as that with which he had had to deal.

Plaintiffs were given the full costs of the action.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

RASPBERRY CORDIAL.

At Buncrana last week, the Donegal County Council summoned a trader for having sold to the food and drug inspector raspberry cordial containing 4.75 grains of salicylic acid per pint. Professor Barklie, Belfast, the analyst, added to his certificate that salicylic acid is a dangerous drug. For the defence it was contended that the acid is a necessary ingredient and not injurious to health. The Magistrates, by a majority, dismissed the case.

COPPER IN SPINACH.

Mr. MARSHAM, the Bow Street Magistrate, had two cases before him on December 3 in which local shopkeepers were summoned for selling preserved spinach containing copper sulphate. In one case the analyst reported the content as 4.70 grains of copper sulphate to the pound, and the Magistrate fined the defendant 5*l.*, and 5*l.* 5*s.* costs. In the other case the analysis showed 3.29 grains per pound, and a fine of 4*l.*, and 3*l.* 3*s.* costs, was imposed, in spite of the fact that there was a label on the tin stating that:

The colour of this vegetable is retained by a slight admixture of sulphate of copper, and customers must take any risk there may be.

The Magistrate advised the defendant in the second case to consult his solicitor as to a claim for damages against the wholesaler.

County Court Case.

WHO PAYS THE DOCTOR?

THE question of liability for the fees for medical attendance on a girl who was nearly burned to death by turpentine-flames was raised in an action in the Liverpool County Court on December 3. A girl, Eliza Radcliffe, was employed bottling turpentine in the warehouse of Messrs. W. & H. Jackson, wholesale druggists, of Lydia Ann Street, in that city, and in the process wore an apron of brown paper. The instructions given to the girls by the forewoman were that when the aprons became saturated by the turpentine they were to be thrown into a stove which

was burning on the premises. In February last the girl carried her apron to the stove for that purpose; but as soon as she removed the lid of the stove the saturated "apron" flared up, set her clothing on fire, and she was frightfully burned. Carron oil was applied, and the girl was sent to hospital by Mr. Jackson, and, her injuries having been there further treated, she was conveyed to her home. Her sister, Mrs. Anderson, went to the defendants' office, and her testimony was that a discussion arose as to what doctor should be employed to attend the injured girl. Mrs. Anderson suggested her own family doctor, but Mr. Jackson, she said, recommended Dr. Albert E. Davis, adding that he (Mr. Jackson) would pay all costs. Miss Pilling, the forewoman, was also present at that interview, and later in the evening called at Radcliffe's house, and, finding that she was delirious, went for Dr. Davis. The girl was awarded half-wages—4s. weekly—and this was paid by the insurance company; but when Dr. Davis sent in his bill for 107 attendances and dressings, amounting to 19l., it was repudiated by the defendants. The injured girl, her sister (Mrs. Anderson), and Mrs. Keary, an aunt, bore out in evidence that view of the case.—For the defence, Mr. W. Jackson denied that he agreed to pay all the expenses connected with the case, as he understood that the girl would be treated at the hospital. He admitted in cross-examination that he paid a bill for dressings from Mr. A. S. Buck, chemist, which had been taken to him by Mrs. Anderson. Up to that time he had supplied dressings, as he had them in stock. He gave no authority to send for Dr. Davis, and Miss Pilling, the forewoman, who called in Dr. Davis, said she had not asked the doctor to attend on the defendants' behalf. Judge Shand said there was evidently some misunderstanding in the case. Such matters as the liability under either the Workmen's Compensation or Employers' Liability Acts were evidently not present to the defendants' minds when the accident occurred, and all that was thought about was how this girl's life might be saved. He believed that Mrs. Anderson was right, and that the defendants did authorise Dr. Davis being called in. In these circumstances there must be judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

Deed of Arrangement.

LONGLEY, RICHARD SAMUEL, 1 Togo Buildings, High Street, Thurnscoe, Chemist and Druggist.—Trustee, Joseph H. Glover, Doncaster. Dated, November 27; filed, November 30. Liabilities unsecured, 337l. 8s. 9d.; estimated net assets, 55l. 12s. The following are creditors: G. H. Atkinson, Doncaster (14l.); Ayrtton, Saunders & Kemp, Ltd., Liverpool (17l.); S. Yates, Manchester (22l.); Ormrod & Faulkner, Ltd., Sheffield (17l.); A Longley, Wombwell (100l.); and Raimes & Co., York (93l.).

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

HORNER, E., and HORNER, L., under the style of Horner & Sons, George Street, Tower Hill, E.C., wholesale druggists.

MOLINEUX, J., and JOHNSON, S. H., under the style of Molineux & Johnson, Hessle, Yorkshire, physicians.

SENIOR, N., and CRAWSHAW, N. S., under the style of the Namrona Manufacturing Co., Huddersfield, Yorkshire, toilet-requisite manufacturers.

WALTHO, A., STOCKS, S. P., RAGG, J. C., under the style of Waltho & Stocks, 2A Price Street, Birkenhead, manufacturers of patent bottle-stoppers.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

ALLEN, T. R., Ye Old Ford, Wyaside, and 1 Palace Yard, Hereford, manufacturer of artificial teeth.

ADJUDICATION.

WALKER, G. J., Lincoln, chemist.

"CAMPHOR TRADE IN SOUTH CHINA" is the title of a paragraph which comes to us this week from a press agency, but somewhat late for C. & D. purposes, as the information was given in our issue of September 21, p. 486.

New Companies and Company News.

BAIRD'S AUSTRALIAN MEDICATED SOAP CO., LTD.—Capital 5,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with J. M. Alderton, and to carry on the business indicated by the title. No initial public issue.

HYGIENIC PAINLESS TEETH INSTITUTE, LTD.—Capital 200l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of extractors and renovators of teeth, manufacturers of and dealers in artificial teeth, eyes, and limbs, etc. The first director is B. Witchell, 99 Caerleon Road, Newport (Mon.), traveller. The business is to be carried on by a director or directors, a secretary, and a general manager.

EGYPTIAN MINES DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.—Capital 60,000l., in 5s. shares. Objects: To acquire and work a concession, granted by the Egyptian Government to the Victoria Investment Corporation, Ltd., to acquire buildings, lands, waters, soda, saline, and other deposits, mines, rights, licences, and property, and to carry on the business of miners, explorers, chemists, druggists, importers and exporters of and dealers in the products of wells and quarries, etc. No initial public issue.

T. WILD, SON & CO., LTD.—Capital 5,000l., in 1l. shares (4,000 6-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire the business of yeast, fruit, and provision merchants, dealers in poultry, soaps, chemicals, and drugs, etc., carried on at Moores Road and Ansell Road, Dorking, at 1 Onslow Street, Guildford, at 11a High Street, Redhill, and at Delaware Road, East Grinstead, as "Thomas Wild, Son & Co." Minimum cash subscription, 1,000l. The first directors are S. S. Wild (permanent managing director), T. Wild, and another to be appointed by the preference shareholders. Special qualification for S. S. Wild, 500l.; ordinary qualification, 100l. Remuneration as fixed by the company. Registered office, "Rockdene," Moores Road, Dorking, Surrey.

FIGUROID CO., LTD.—Capital 15,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To adopt agreements (a) with G. E. Dixon for the acquisition of his interest for the Eastern Hemisphere in the secret formula for the preparation of a remedy known as "Figuroids"; and (b) with the Capsuloid Co., Ltd., relating to services rendered, and to carry on the business of manufacturers of patent medicines, drugs, chemicals, etc. The first directors are Dr. G. E. Dixon (managing director) and a chairman to be nominated by him. Qualification, 1,000 shares. Registered office, Atlantic House, 46a Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

KAROX CONTINENTAL, LTD.—Capital 3,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire the French, Dutch, and Belgian businesses of the Karox Manufacturing Co., Ltd., carried on at Moorside, near Manchester, and the recipes and rights to manufacture and deal in the medicinal preparation known as "Karo Compound," and to carry on the same and the business of chemists, druggists, importers, exporters, manufacturers of and dealers in medicines, wines, cordials, liqueurs, soups, broths, and other restoratives or foods, etc. The first subscribers are: H. V. Rogers, Rydal, Bramhall, Ches., merchant; S. C. Peacock, 13 Princess Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester, sales agent; J. P. Stoddart, 29 Albert Street, Eccles, Manchester, manager; J. E. Downes, 36 Hyde Grove, Manchester, cashier; C. E. Peacock, 7 Moxley Road, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester, clerk; E. Osborne, 26 Parsonage Road, Withington, Manchester, advertising contractor; and F. Preston, 65 Rossall Road, Ainsdell, Lytham, master painter. No initial public issue. Registered without articles of association. The first directors are H. V. Rogers, E. Osborne, F. Preston, J. D. Barnsdale, and A. Fryers. Registered office, 366 Moorside Road, Manchester.

PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, LTD.—A petition for the winding-up of this company was presented at the High Court on November 27, and will be heard on December 10.

CASSEL CYANIDE CO., LTD.—The report for the year ended September 30, 1907, shows a credit balance on profit-and-loss account of 48,879l. Deducting the interim dividend of 10 per cent., there remains 40,066l., which the directors recommend should be disposed of by putting to reserve fund 10,000l., in payment of a further dividend of 20 per cent. (free of income-tax), making 30 per cent. for the year, 17,625l.; in payment of a bonus of 10 per cent. (free of income-tax), 8,812l.; carried forward, 3,629l.

COMPANIES STRUCK OFF THE REGISTER.—Mr. H. F. Bartlett, Registrar of Joint-stock Companies, Somerset House, advertised in the "London Gazette" of November 29 that the following companies have been dissolved: Anglo Soda Fountain Co., Ltd.; Branson's Drug-stores, Ltd.; Cleveland Paint and Oil Co., Ltd.; Frederick Bates, Ltd.; Gyptican Oil Co., Ltd.; International Compressed Gas Syndicate, Ltd.; Khoosh Bitters, Ltd.; Medical Electro Vibration Institute, Ltd.; Moneyweight Advertising Co., Ltd.; Oxygen Co., Ltd.;

People's Beverage Co., Ltd.; Primox, Ltd.; Rat and Vermin Exterminators, Ltd.; Surgical Mechanicians, Ltd.

CAMWAL, LTD.—The annual report of the directors states that the past season has been one of the most disastrous on record for the mineral-water trade. In anticipation of more normal conditions and better trade, the factories have been kept up to the most modern standards, and economy in working has been aimed at. Plant for the manufacture of syphons has lately been put down, and chemists who desire their own branded syphons can now be supplied upon the most favourable terms. A three-dozen assorted case of brewed ginger-beer in stone bottles and jars and dry ginger-ale in champagne pints and splits will be supplied by the company, on sale or return, to chemists applying for same from now up till February 1. In view of the adverse conditions during the past year, the directors are able to recommend the usual dividend (5 per cent.) on preference shares only. This will absorb 2,472l. 2s., leaving a balance of 1,116l. 14s. 3d. to be carried forward to next year. The profit-and-loss account shows a gross profit (after deducting depreciation) on the year's trading of 15,962l., the net profit (after deducting general expenses, 8,246l.; rents, etc., 1,015l.; insurance, 390l.; advertisements, 1,142l.; directors' fees, 580l.; interest on debentures, 1,923l.; and bad debts, 269l.) being 2,547l.

ILFORD, LTD.—The eleventh ordinary general meeting of this company was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on December 3, Colonel Ivor Phillips (chairman of the company) presiding. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts (see *C. & D.*, November 30, p. 819), the Chairman spoke of the adverse effect which the weather during the past summer had had on business. He then went on to allude to the retirement of Mr. Knobel, formerly managing director of the company. Mr. Knobel's five years' agreement expired in October last, and he was asked to resign, but he declined to do so. The board then decided to terminate the agreement at once and to pay Mr. Knobel six months' salary in lieu of notice. Mr. Knobel accordingly ceased to be the managing director, but he retained his seat on the board. Two of the directors had consented to discharge temporarily the duties of managing director, acting as a committee of the Board to supervise the daily working of the business. Speeches for and against Mr. Knobel were delivered by shareholders, and Mr. Knobel, in a heated speech, defended his action as managing director. In the course of the discussion the Chairman stated that there was at present no proposal for amalgamation [Mr. Knobel had favoured amalgamation with the Eastman-Kodak Co.] in the minds of the directors, but the matter was constantly being considered. Colonel Burton Browne moved the appointment of a committee "to establish, if possible, a *modus vivendi* and determine the duties and emoluments of a managing director; also to report any change which might be necessary to the board itself." This found a seconder, but no other support. The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried *nem. con.* The Chairman proposed the re-election of Mr. Knobel as a director, explaining that he did so on the understanding that Mr. Knobel would voluntarily resign. This was seconded and agreed to.

Information Wanted.

Inquiries for the names and addresses of manufacturers, or other trade information, not traceable by reference to the advertisement-pages of "The Chemist and Druggist" and the "C. & D. Diary," or not filed in our private register, are inserted here free of charge. Postcard or other replies to any of the subjoined inquiries (addressed to the Editor "The Chemist and Druggist," 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.) will be esteemed.

- 46/46. What are menthol salicyl and sterilising soda?
- 43/65. What is cresol-naphthalin, or where obtainable?
- 45/74. Makers of Japanese hair brushes with fancy backs.
- 43/14. Where can Thermolite hot-water bags be obtained?
- 44/41. Name and address of makers of "Marie Antoinette Egg Julep."
- 46/2. What is the composition of Hayes' Wash, known in the Glasgow district?
- 45/58. Where can Hodgkinson's electro-muretone (? nuretone) be obtained?

Prescription Problem.

THE prescription as reproduced in our issue of November 9 (p. 720) reads as follows:

Miss
 R Phenacetin gr viij
 Pulv. Guarana gr vj
 Ft cht
 Mitte tales no viij
 Sig. Cap j p r n si dolor urgenti
 R Syrup Hydrobr Co 5j
 Glycerin 5v
 Liq. Arsen. HCl gtts l
 Aqua Chlorof ad 5viij
 M. ft. mist
 Sig.: Cap 5iv ter in die ex aq. p.c.

P. G. B.

In reproduction the "v" of

Glycerin 5v.

was altered so that it looked more like x. Accordingly we have included in the reckoning transcriptions which give either 5v. or 5x., and on this basis the following alone are entitled to awards (4s. each):

MR. W. J. NETHERCOTT, 37 Grosvenor Road, Bristol.
 MR. H. HARE, c/o Mr. H. R. Maynard, The Pharmacy, Horncastle.
 MR. J. F. BLACKMORE, 50 Bedford Street, Plymouth.
 MR. R. M. JACK, c/o Messrs. Burrell & Son, 48A High Street, Montrose, N.B.

A large proportion of the competitors read "Guaiaci" for "Guarana," and "Liq. Arsen. HCl" was rendered "Liq. Arsen. Hyd." by several, although the "HCl" is plain enough in the original. The quantity of the arsenical liquor puzzled many; it was given as "gtts. xx.," "gtts. lx.," "gtt. xl.," and so on, but a surprising number gave the correct figure. A few translated "ft cht" as "ft cachet," but on the whole the reading shows a carefulness in deciphering which is creditable to pharmacy. It is no easy matter to transcribe with such success the intentions of a manifestly careless prescriber.

The Week's Poisonings.

TEN fatalities by poisoning have occurred during the past week, five being suicides. Two of the suicides—William Law (61), a Ratcliff dock-labourer, and Julia Clara Robinson (35), a Hampstead housemaid—took hydrochloric acid.—Salt of lemon was taken by Eliza Hall (47), of Grimsby.—Two women died as a result of lead-poisoning, the lead having been taken, it is surmised, to procure abortion. They were May Alice Sexton (23), of Oldham, and Sarah Ann Stocks (32), of Mansfield.—At Oldham, Jack Fray, three years old, drank from a bottle containing a solution of potassium bichromate and sulphuric acid, and died from the effects.—An overdose of laudanum, taken to induce sleep, proved fatal to Leopold Lublinski (53), a Liverpool commercial traveller.—At a Belfast wake Samuel Hodgens was given a drink of carbolic acid in mistake for whisky, and died as the result. The woman who gave him the drink is being charged with murder.—Mark Rose (64), a Southwell carpenter, poisoned himself with oxalic acid.—At Bristol Thomas Henry Musgrove Smithson (36), an insurance surveyor, committed suicide with potassium cyanide.

Recent Wills.

MR. RICHARD SLOMAN, of 282 Union Street, Torquay, Devon, chemist and druggist, who died on October 28, left estate valued at 3,152l. 17s. 2d. gross, with net personality 3,087l. 7s. 11d.

MR. JAMES DYSON, of 285 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester, mineral-water manufacturer, who died on October 27 intestate, left estate valued at 24,160l. 19s. 3d. gross, with net personality 9,035l.

MR. BERTIE DEXTER, of 35 Wayfield Grove, Nottingham, chemist and druggist, who died on October 16, left estate valued at 803l. 8s. 1d. gross, of which 141l. 5s. 11d. is net personality.

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

"That Bubble has Burst,"

the hackneyed metaphor being applied in this case to the failure of the Pharmaceutical Council to get their directors clause accepted by Parliament. There is nothing brilliant about the comment, but what is notable concerning it is that it was made, not by Mr. Boot, who might fairly be allowed a moment of exultation over his victory, but by the official leader of the defeated side. Like the fox in the fable who lost his tail, Mr. Young calls on the rest of us to recognise with him the convenience and comfort of existence without that clumsy appendage. It is a poor trick which will deceive no one. Moreover, it is indiscreet to hail a knock-out blow in that cheery fashion. It suggests that the fight was entered upon frivolously, and that the result was only what was expected. It may also serve to remind bitter critics like Mr. Mackenzie of many other burst bubbles which so conspicuously mark the career of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. Wreckage would have been a more respectful term, suggesting serious and honourable, even if unsuccessful, labours. But the President prefers to describe the foiled efforts of the Society as burst bubbles. So let it be.

Look Back

on the numerous Bills which previous Councils have drafted; on the quaint ideas of legislation they have expressed; on the 1868 Act itself, for that extinguished many a pet aspiration; on the official interpretations of that statute, pricked in the law courts one after another—as, for example, in regard to companies, to "patent" medicines, to the qualified seller, and to the rights of executors; on the flights of oratory which in the Middle Ages of the Society's history flowed so abundantly on behalf of a compulsory curriculum; on their model school, which is only maintained by taxing the trade to the tune of a thousand pounds a year and more; on their control of the poison business so contemptuously treated by the Departmental Committee; on the secret meetings where "organising" (whatever that may mean) is supposed to be proceeding. This recital of defeats and failures is not compiled with the object of depreciating the work of the Pharmaceutical Society. The failures have not all been discreditable by any means; defeats are the most frequent rewards of earnest efforts. Few persons or institutions fulfil their ideals. The one purpose aimed at is to show how unjust and imprudent it may be to characterise one unaccomplished design "a bubble which has burst."

The Elected Representatives

on the General Medical Council had to make a demonstration against unqualified practice or their constituents would have asked the reason why. Consequently an hour or two of the Council's costly time has been wasted on a subject which is in fact entirely foreign to the business which that Council was created to perform. The Medical Act of 1858 recognised unqualified practitioners of medicine, and only sought to distinguish them from qualified persons. To the Council was entrusted the administration of the provisions which Parliament devised for this purpose, and certain other special objects; but the modification of the will of the Legislature is no part of the duty of the Council as a Council. The incident affords further evidence of the danger of permitting extension of direct representation on the Medical Council. If the interests of chemists and druggists are to be challenged by this body, it may, indeed, become advisable to petition for

the admission of a representative of that class—a claim which the Crown has the power to grant. But why do not the members of the medical profession abandon the perfectly hopeless task of trying to persuade Parliament to give them a monopoly in the treatment of diseases? No amount of information of what France, or Germany, or Russia is doing will influence our Legislature in that direction.

The Royal Commission

of 1882 which considered medical grievances and desires was as strong a Commission as was ever formed. Among its medical members were Sir John Simon, Sir W. Jenner, Sir William Turner, and Professor Huxley. The Commissioners differed on every subject they considered except this. They unanimously resolved that it was undesirable to attempt to prevent unregistered persons from practising, though they agreed that it was desirable to prevent them from assuming misleading titles. Two years later Professor Huxley published an article in the "Nineteenth Century" (February 1884), in which he repeated the arguments which it may be expected he had used with his colleagues of that Royal Commission, and they went as directly to the point as Huxley's arguments did generally. Here are a few sentences extracted from the article:

A number of persons seem to be of opinion that the State is bound to take care of the general public . . . see that it is protected against incompetent persons, quacks, and medical impostors in general. . . . I think it is much wholesomer for the public to take care of itself in this—as in most other matters. . . . I am perfectly certain . . . it is impossible to prevent the practice of medicine by people who have no special qualification.

Recognising that it was natural for the practitioner who had spent much time and money in acquiring his qualification to feel it hard when he saw potential customers go to the chemist round the corner, and there get advice and a shillingsworth of "doctors' stuff," he still held that

It would be difficult for him to justify his opinion [that this should be prohibited] on any ground of public policy. But the question is really not worth discussion. It would be utterly impracticable to stop such practice even if it were desirable. Is a man who has a sudden attack of pain in tooth or stomach not to be permitted to go to the nearest druggist's shop for something that will relieve him? The notion is preposterous.

Possibly these views have been quoted before in these pages; but it is well to repeat them every ten years or so.

Chemists have been Severely Handicapped

this year, and it is to be feared that the effect of the indolent thermometer of last summer will be apparent in many a balance-sheet. First, the weather was extraordinarily healthy. Children's diarrhoea and grown-up people's liver disorders, which all come within the scope of our counter ministrations, were conspicuously scarce in the bracing dog days of 1907. Then the lack of sunshine must have considerably restricted the output of photographic accessories, which chemists have annexed as a most important side-line, greatly to the credit of the younger generation. The report of Ilford, Ltd., which was summarised last week, is eloquently suggestive of slack trade in this department. The profits of that company are this year only just about half of what they were in 1906. It is not likely that this drop is due exclusively to climatic conditions, but these must have had much influence on the result. Another important adjunct is the trade in aerated waters. Concerning this the Camwal Company report that "the past season has been one of the most disastrous on record," and their profit and loss account furnishes testimony in support of this statement. It is disappointing that chemists have not shared in the exceptional general prosperity of 1907.

"Sanitas Disinfecting Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Crude Disinfecting Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Special Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Disinfecting Oil,"
 "Sanitas Okol Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Bactox Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Creocide Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Soldis Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Pinos Fluid,"
 "Sanitas Sulphur Fumigating Candles,"
 "Sanitas Sulphugators,"
 "Sanitas Formic Sulphugators,"
 "Sanitas Formic Lamps,"
 "Sanitas Formic Fumigators,"
 "Sanitas Drain Testers,"
 "Sanitas Floor Polish,"
 Sheep Dips, Weed Killer,
 "Sulphume," and "Burnet's Smoke Tests,"
 Patent Preserved Peroxide of Hydrogen,
 Carbolie Fluids, Powders, and Soaps,

"Sanitas" Pamphlet and "How to Disinfect" Book sent free.

THE "SANITAS" CO., LTD., LONDON, E.

WARRICK BROTHERS.

G. S. MUMFORD, FARRINGTON RD., LONDON, E.G.

No. 1 Finest Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	20/ * cwt.	Finest Pure STARCH POWDER	22/ * cwt.
No. 2 Pure CRUSHED LINSEED	19/ * cwt.	No. 1 Finest Light Pure PRECIPITATED CHALK	25/ * cwt.
Best Cleaned LINSEED (TEA)	19/ * cwt.	EPSOM SALTS, E.S.S. Purified, Clean, and Dry	9/ * cwt.
No. 1 Finest Pure FULLER'S EARTH (Light Colour)	15/ * cwt.	Finest Levigated "WHITE EARTH" (Toilet purposes)	18/ * cwt.
Finest Compound LIQUORICE POWDER	7 & 10 lb.	Finest Pure TOILET OATMEAL, SPECIAL	32/ * cwt.
Finest Pure LIQUORICE JUICE	10/ * lb.	Finest ARROWROOT	1/ lb.

2 1/2 per cent. Discount if Cash with Order.
 * CARRIAGE PAID to Railway Stations within 200 miles of London (or allowance made for distances beyond) on a total weight of 112 lbs. and upwards of above articles. Smaller parcels delivered free on rail London at above prices.

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Well got up.

Well advertised.

Pays well to handle.

SALE RESERVED TO CHEMISTS ONLY.

PART II. POISON. May NOT be sold by unqualified dealers.

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RANKIN & CO., PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS,
KILMARNOCK, N.B.

GRIMBLE'S PURE VINEGAR.

Brewery : LONDON, N.W.

MUNN'S Genuine COD LIVER OIL.

New Season's make. Finest Quality.

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FLETCHERS' HYDROBROMATES.

The titles "Syr. Hydrobrom." and "Syr. Hydrobrom. c Strychnia" were originated by us in the year 1879 and can only be legitimately applied to FLETCHERS' HYDROBROMATES. Legal proceedings will be instituted against any firm or person dispensing or offering for sale fraudulent imitations of FLETCHERS' SYRUPS.

SOLE PROPRIETORS,

FLETCHER, FLETCHER & CO., LD., LONDON, N.

Editorial Comments.

The By-laws Passed.

THERE was some disappointment in Edinburgh pharmacy last Saturday when it became known that the Privy Council had decided to approve of the altered by-laws of the Pharmaceutical Society, thus not giving effect to the petition against them which was signed by a majority of the chemists in Scotland. The result was not unexpected, even by those who were most active in the matter, for it was clearly recognised that the principle put forward in regard to the acceptance of certificates is already departed from in Section X, 11, of the old by-laws, and if the Privy Council refused to sanction the new by-law on the same subject the older one would still remain. In our opinion the passing of that by-law, whereby persons are registered as apprentices on certificates of examining bodies (not being the Society's Boards of Examiners), was contrary to the provisions of the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868, but its approval by the Privy Council gives it legal force. The Pharmaceutical Society may, however (voluntarily or by order of Court), make by-laws in strict accordance with the Charter and Statutes. It is the duty of members of chartered and statutory bodies to examine critically proposals affecting their interests as such, and, if need be,

to oppose the governing body. That is frequently done in the most ancient corporations, and it rarely happens that the corporations are not benefited by such opposition. The Council of the Society is considerably relieved by the Privy Council's decision, which is of far greater importance to it than beating a section of its members. We subjoin an epitome of the alterations in the by-laws, showing the changes which have been effected:

The Council may accept or reject a proposal for election of a person as member or student associate of the Society.

Any person so elected must conform to the by-laws as well as regulations.

Scientific workers (formerly "men") may be elected honorary or corresponding members of the Society, and names of such persons may be suggested by anybody to the Secretary.

The Society's seal box is not only to have a lock and key, but is to be secured thereby. The affixing of the seal is to be recorded and attested by those present.

A committee may report to the Council on alteration, etc., of by-laws. Hitherto this was only done by a member of the Council.

It is no longer obligatory on the Secretary to issue voting-papers by post.

Voting-papers transmitted under cover alone have to bear name and address of the voter on the cover.

Members not present at the annual meeting may be appointed scrutineers.

The Council is no longer required to meet at the Society's house.

Three by-laws respecting the manner of conducting Council-meetings are modernised, and the by-laws regarding the General Purposes, Finance, and Library, etc., Committees are deleted.

Minimum (instead of maximum) numbers of persons constituting the Boards of Examiners are fixed—England 8 and Scotland 4.

The Council shall make examination regulations (formerly "make or adopt").

Persons will henceforth be registered as apprentices by the Registrar on production of Preliminary examination certificates without referring the approved to the Examiners.

Major candidates may be examined in botany, materia medica, chemistry, and physics, or such of these subjects as the Council may from time to time determine (previously "or any two" subjects).

The Examiners are to deliver pass lists to the Registrar immediately after the examinations. "Immediately" is new.

The excuses of persons who have given notice to attend an examination and have not attended are to be produced to the Registrar, who decides without reference to the Council or Examiners, as formerly required.

The by-law requiring the Registrar to publish a register is deleted. He will no longer be required to superintend the transmission of the "Pharmaceutical Journal."

The Society's auditors are no longer required to sign the accounts, etc., presented to them until they approve of them. Formerly they had no option.

Annual-meeting notices will be issued ten days before the meeting.

The by-laws referring to the removal of members of Council, members of the Society, and student-associates are verbally altered; so that a visit of two members of the Council to the offending person is not necessary, but the consent of three-fourths of the Council members present at the meeting is required for the removal.

The Council's annual report is to be presented (not "read") at the annual meeting. The order of the business at such meetings is to be arranged by the Council (previously "the business" was so arranged).

Pharmaceutical chemists who become registered medical practitioners will no longer be required to give up their diploma or certificate.

It will be observed that many of these alterations are distinct improvements (as we have previously indicated). The petitioners against the by-laws felt that some of them weaken the powers of the Boards of Examiners, but except in regard to the Preliminary examination certificates and excuses for absence, the Boards' powers of conducting examinations remain absolute. The present alterations of the by-laws do not affect these powers; but there has grown up during the past twenty-five years a practice of the President and Vice-President examining candidates. This is contrary to Section 6 of the 1868 Act, unless their names are submitted to the Privy Council and approved as

members of the Boards along with the names of the members elected annually by the Council. Moreover, by-law Section X, 3, contemplates the presence either of the President or Vice-President (not both) at any meeting of the Boards, and his duty when there is to preside—not examine. These *ex-officio* members of the Boards are the intermediary between the Council and Boards, and it would be well if they strictly adhered to their superior position of presidency, without stepping down into the arena and battling with candidates.

American Root-drugs.

THE demand for information concerning the medicinal plants of the United States has led to the preparation of an interesting and valuable illustrated pamphlet by Miss Alice Henkel, assistant in drug-plant investigations, which has been published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. About fifty of the root-drugs found in the United States are included in the pamphlet, these comprising the official as well as the native or "non-official" roots which, although regular articles of trade which are quoted in druggists' price-lists, are not in the U.S.P. Brief reference is made to the medicinal uses of the drugs, the statements being based on information contained in various dispensatories and materia medica works. Some helpful hints to collectors and growers are also given, from which it appears that the roots of annual plants should be dug just before flowering and biennial or perennial plants late in autumn or early spring, the object being to collect them at a period when there is a cessation of growth; for besides shrinking more and weighing less if collected during the growing season, they are also deficient in medicinal properties. Frequently a drug is of inferior quality because the collector has not gathered it in the proper season. Much confusion exists in regard to the common names of American plants, and on this account the collector is not sure of the identity of the plant he is collecting, nor the drug-dealer as to what he will receive unless a sample is submitted. This confusion usually arises from the fact that the common name of a plant in one locality may be the same as that of an entirely different plant in another locality. It is suggested that more attention should be paid to the proper cleaning and drying of the roots, as they thus command a better price. Many roots are at present sent to market with dirt and foreign particles adhering, and occasionally mixed roots are received. It is directed that the roots should be spread out in thin layers on shelves or racks, exposed to light and air (not direct sunlight), and turned occasionally each day. If the roots are dried out of doors, they should be placed under shelter at night or upon the approach of damp or wet weather. It requires from three to six weeks to cure roots, and if thoroughly dried they snap readily when bent. Although fifty root-drugs are described, we do not suppose there are more than a dozen that find a sale in this country. Among these may be mentioned serpentary, golden seal, podophyllum, bloodroot, senega, culvers, elecampane, and burdock. The most important in the above list is senega, some commercial particulars of which we quote:

The roots found in commerce vary greatly in size, that obtained from the South, which is really the official drug, being usually light coloured and small. The principal supply now comes from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and further north, and this Western senega has a much larger darker root, with a crown or head sometimes measuring 2 or 3 in. across and the upper part of the root very thick. It is also less twisted and not so distinctly keeled. . . . It is often much adulterated with the roots of other species of *Polygala* and other plants. Labour conditions play a great part in the rise and fall of prices for this drug, which is collected in the autumn. It is said that very little senega

was dug in the North-West during 1906, due to the fact that the Indians and others usually engaged in this work were so much in demand as farm-hands and railroad labourers at better wages. Collectors receive from about 55c. to 70c. per lb.

The last statement must now be considerably modified, as, judging from what senega is offering at, we do not suppose collectors are receiving 40c. per lb. The bulk of what is offered on the London market corresponds to the Western root, which is not the official drug. The monograph on golden seal is interesting, but much of the information was the subject of a special brochure which we epitomised in our issue of January 28, 1905. As is well known, this useful drug is now scarce, and in consequence of increased demand its cultivation has been taken up. According to the account given, it is an easy plant to grow and bears transplanting well, a marketable crop being obtained in from two to three years. It is curious, however, that although golden seal is now cultivated in different parts of the country on a commercial scale, the price should have recently touched \$2 per lb., which does not say much for its successful cultivation. Serpentry is another drug finding an outlet here. As showing the ignorance and carelessness of collectors, some high-priced drugs, such as golden seal, pink-root, senega, and ginseng, are occasionally mixed with serpentry, due simply to proximity of growth. Serpentry is frequently adulterated with abscess-root (*Polemonium reptans*, L.), which is very similar in appearance. Ginseng is a valuable crop in the United States, and is mostly grown for the Chinese markets, but practically nothing finds its way here. Mandrake (*Podophyllum*), which has advanced in price lately, is found growing in patches from Western Quebec to Minnesota, south to Florida and Texas, and is collected in September or October, as are most of these botanicals. Among other roots which have an occasional sale here may be mentioned aletris, angelica, *Berberis aquifolium*, blue flag, lady's slipper, pink-root, and poke-root, but the extent of the business is extremely small. It cannot be said that the outlook of the trade in American indigenous drugs is one of expansion, and although their cultivation has been taken up vigorously by the United States Department of Agriculture, we have yet to learn of tangible results.

The Franco-British Exhibition.

THE *entente* which has existed so happily for some years past between France and this country is to receive practical consummation at Shepherd's Bush next year. For there, as was briefly indicated in a recent issue (p. 801), a work is going on which is destined not only to eclipse anything hitherto attempted in the way of exhibitions, but also to cement the good will between two friendly Powers by co-operation in commerce. If this Exhibition, which, according to Mr. T. P. O'Connor, is to be "the largest, greatest, and most splendid ever seen in London," does more than has already been done to bind the peoples of France and of Britain into a stronger bond, then it will indeed have fulfilled a great purpose. The auguries are propitious. "The Exhibition has behind it," said Mr. O'Connor, speaking at the recent reception by the Duke of Argyll, "the sympathies of the masses of the people, both in England and France, and the profits are to be devoted to public purposes." The King has warmly approved the idea; his brother-in-law, the Duke of Argyll, being Honorary President. The Ministers of the King have given their blessings. The Municipality of Paris has voted 12,000*l.* for the erection of a pavilion in which to display the archives and other records of the municipal work of the city. One-half of the entire space will be devoted to

French exhibits, and these will be more numerous than have ever been displayed by France at any exhibition outside Paris. France will not only exhibit her home industries, but those of French colonies will have adequate representation, Algeria being the most prominent. The exhibits will be housed in twenty "palaces," in the erection of which both French and English workmen are now busily engaged. The overseas possessions of the British Empire will be represented on a larger scale than at any previous exhibition. The Government of India is spending 15,000*l.* on a suitable building to represent her wealth. Canada has set aside 65,000*l.* for the same purpose, and has secured an area of 120,000 square feet. Australia has taken 60,000 square feet; while New Zealand, the Crown Colonies, Africa, and Ceylon are each separately represented by large areas. The Imperialistic character of the Exhibition provides a unique opportunity for British manufacturers and producers, which, judging by the spaces already applied for, the more enterprising have not been slow to grasp. In halls near the main entrance it is proposed to locate those British sections in which pharmacists will mainly be interested. These comprise the Liberal Arts, Science, Chemical Industry, Social Economy, and Alimentation. The actual ground occupied by the Exhibition will extend (with the addition of special railway accommodations, extensions, and analogous services) to about 200 acres. There is, therefore, plenty of room for artistic landscape gardening, limpid lakes, crystal fountains, and dazzling cascades. The most unique extra-commercial feature will, however, be the Stadium, where Olympic games are to be played. According to the Rev. R. S. Courcy de Laffan, who discoursed in French to the assembled journalists on the aims of the Executive Committee regarding *les jeux Olympiques*, the stadium is capable of seating 68,000 people, and the standing space would accommodate 150,000 spectators. It is certainly immense, and the florid periods of the "Daily Telegraph" descriptionist come nearer than any other to do justice to the subject:

The Coliseum [at Rome], with all its tiers of arches, could be easily contained within the completed Olympic arena of to-day. The stadium of modern Athens, seats and all, could be built within the space of grass that forms merely the centre of London's latest marvel. The amphitheatres of Nimes or Arles could be hidden away at one end of the Shepherd's Bush arena and scarcely interfere with its proportions. . . . Like Pharaoh's officers upon the Pyramids, the companions of the Duke of Argyll mounted the long tiers of concrete steps yesterday afternoon to the topmost circle of this Brobdingnagian crater, and looked out upon the acres of greensward, the long curves of the cinder-track, the embankments for bicycle-racing, the huge cavern of the swimming-bath.

In characteristic Gallic eloquence Senator Dupont, at the recent reception, summed up the situation in a glowing speech. "These buildings," he said, "may disappear; this vision, like some unsubstantial fabric, may vanish; but the feelings that created them will remain, and by the mutual respect engendered by the manly competition of the Olympic games, those feelings will be yet more strongly and more durably perpetuated."

"Patriotism and Proprietaries."

We learn that the "Export Union of German Apothekers and Manufacturers of the Pharmaceutical Industry," to which reference was made in our issue of November 23, p. 792, has not overwhelmed German pharmacy and chemical industry either on account of its patriotism or of its possibilities. It has, in short, fallen flat, so far as it may have savoured of a national organisation, and any success which may attend it in the future must be due to the enthusiasm of the gentleman who is its promoter. He, we understand, is a manufacturer of medicinal specialities.

Higher Finance.

The Pharmaceutical Society has made a striking financial improvement during the past month, an adverse balance of 2,764*l.* reported at the November Council-meeting having in the interval been reduced to 1,495*l.* This has been effected by receipts from "publications." These were paid in advance months ago, but have not appeared among receipts until this month. In the case of public accounts this is not a good method of finance, and it is open to criticism, but some people prefer to let off their fireworks all at once. The surplus in hand when the Finance Committee last met was 1,225*l.*, and payments of 2,720*l.* were authorised, leaving a deficit of 1,495*l.*, as compared with 1,710*l.* at the same time last year.

Formulae for Australia.

The information published in the *C. & D.* last week regarding the introduction into the Australian Commonwealth Parliament of a Bill to amend the Commerce Act as regards the trade descriptions of patent medicines is understood to reverse Section 16 of the Commerce Act, which is as follows:

The regulations under Sections 7 and 11 of this Act shall not prescribe a trade-description which discloses trade-secrets of manufacture or preparation, unless in the opinion of the Governor-General the disclosure is necessary for the protection of the health or welfare of the public.

Section 7 provides for the prohibition of importation of goods unless described according to the regulations, and states that no regulation shall take effect until three months after it is gazetted; Section 11 does the same as regards exports. In the official publication regarding the Act published under the authority of Sir William Lyne, it is said that

The object of this section [16] is to prevent the proprietors of trade-secrets from losing the benefit of such by their being divulged in the trade-descriptions. Where, however, the articles, such as patent medicines, contain anything of a kind which may be injurious if taken without due precaution, such as opium, for example, the regulation may require the fact to be stated on the trade-description.

The Proprietary Articles Section of the London Chamber of Commerce has the whole matter in hand so far as the defence of home interests is concerned, and the members met again on Thursday, December 5. The meeting was private.

The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary.

This much-appreciated annual is now complete, and the copies for Australia, India, Japan, China, West Indies, and far-distant Colonies and Dependencies of the Empire have already been despatched. In a short time our subscribers on the Continent and in Great Britain and Ireland will have an opportunity of judging of the merits of a publication which has many imitators but no compeers. A general indication of the contents of the *Diary* was given in our issue of November 2 (p. 690), so that there is little need for recapitulation beyond the reminder that the subjects treated and the information given are so varied that the most exacting of requirements are catered for. The legal information alone is invaluable to all who are in any way connected with the drug-trade. The most recent judicial decisions in cases under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, the Medicine-stamp Acts, and other legislation bearing on a chemist's business are incorporated in the *Diary*. Of especial usefulness will be found the "Dictionary of Dutiable Medicines" (comprising all the latest Somerset House decisions), the Buyers' Guide, an exhaustive treatise on the "Cultivation and Collection of Medicinal Plants," and a series of formulas for preparations in common everyday use in various trades. The new Patent Law is treated by an expert, and there is besides so much

general information of a desk-book character that the *Diary* has become known in the drug-trade as the *Vade-Mecum of Pharmacy*. We are confident that the *C. & D. Diary* for 1908 will be found as useful and as interesting as its thirty-nine predecessors.

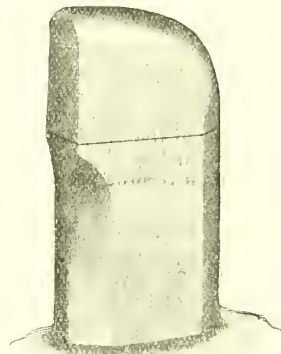
Trade Notes.

MESSRS. JOSEPH'S LIMERICK WINNERS are (1) Mr. W. E. Dodd, Sunderland; (2) Mr. A. J. Barnes, Dublin; (3) Mr. F. L. Stanton, Brecon; and (4) Mr. Arthur Mills, Eastbourne.

THE British depôt of Calox (Mr. A. C. Wootton, agent) have acquired more extensive and commodious offices in the same building at 14 Trinity Square, Tower Hill, London, E.C.

FARROW'S BANK.—The originator of this bank, whose advertisement appears in our columns, is Mr. Thomas Farrow, whose persistence in unmasking the tricks of money-lenders resulted in the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the passing of an Act of Parliament regulating the business of money-lending. Mr. Farrow has also views on thrift and the necessity of providing banks on the model of the people's banks of Germany and Italy. The outcome was the establishment of a bank, which has since been registered under the Companies Act, and moved to central premises at 1 Cheapside. The capital of the company is 100,000*l.* Its conditions of business are outlined in a booklet, which any of our subscribers can obtain on application to the head office, 1 Cheapside, London, E.C.

THE ODOL FLASK CASE strikes us as being something that should sell readily at Christmas time. It is British-made, and is offered in small and large sizes in three kinds of metal—nickel silver, silver-plated, and solid silver. The Odol flask fits nicely in the case, which not only protects it when packed in bag or trunk from rough handling by porters, but makes a pleasing addition to the dressing-table. At a time when much money passes over the counter for presents, a new line like this is generally much appreciated. We understand that the Odol Chemical Works, 59-63 Park Street, London, S.E., are advertising the cases as being obtainable from chemists, and they will answer any inquiries as to price.



"PARFUM HAVANITA," the latest product from the perfume-factory of Messrs. H. Bronnley & Co., Ltd., Warple Way, Acton, London, W., is, with Courvoisier's Otto of Violets, being largely displayed in leading London houses as an appropriate gift for Christmas. There is nothing that a chemist sells so suited for a present as perfumes and toilet-preparations, and it is pretty certain that a display of perfume-novelties, especially if they are put up in a style that can be described as *chic*, attracts the attention of likely purchasers, with mutually satisfactory results. "Parfum Havanita" is a registered trade-mark. The perfume itself is a pleasant and lasting odour, and is neatly bottled.



CHRISTMAS PERFUMERY.—Messrs. Shirley Bros., Ltd., Whitecross Works, London, S.E., are advertising in this issue special parcels of Christmas perfumery.

Winter Session of Chemists' Associations.

CANNON STREET ECLOGUES.

*Of the wind on the moor, or the song in the trees,
Of the rose of the dawn, or the sigh of the breeze,
We may sing not of these;
But of wisdom that's drowned in the Sessional seas,
Of the Tale that is hushed, or political wheeze,
We may sing you of these.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Carper with the puerile mind,
Who plucks the beam, but leaves the mote,
May useful information find
By studying "ads."—and Neathercoat.

The business-man who'd lead the van,
The chemist who for fortune sighs,
Must work with brains as well he can,
And always he must advertise.

Thus Neathercoat, the worldly wise,
Proclaims the true and only way,
And urges to the bold embrace
The members of the C.A.A.

'Tis good to see that "lofty tone,"
That starchy, prim profess'nal pride,
For once forsaken, left alone,
And piffle gently pushed aside.

For whatso'er one has to sell,
Be it a bolus or a book,
Be sure to advertise it well
And ram it down by hook and crook.

Just one thing I would like to say
To hunters of elusive pelf:
You'll find it much the straightest way
To use the brains you've got yourself.

Tunbridge Wells Chemists' Association.

THE fortnightly meeting of this Association was held on Thursday evening, November 28. Mr. H. M. Thompson, Ph.C., read a paper on the "Codex," and a short discussion respecting some of the galcnical preparations followed. The remainder of the evening was spent in a social manner, and was enlivened by the rendering of an excellent selection of phonograph records provided by Mr. Naylor.

Plymouth Chemists' Association.

At the Association Library, Whimble Street, on Friday, November 29, Mr. H. H. Cannon gave a lecture to a good attendance of the junior members on the "Extracts of the B.P." On the previous Wednesday afternoon, through the courtesy of Messrs. Gibbs and Finch, the junior members were shown over their sulphuric-acid works at Cattedown. A very instructive and interesting afternoon was spent, the works chemist explaining the different processes involved in its manufacture and purification.

Cheltenham Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the New Inn Hotel, Gloucester, on Thursday, November 28, Mr. Freshfield Reynolds (Vice-President) in the chair. The members present included Messrs. W. Barron, W. Minchin, A. J. Wells, W. Marchant, W. Slatter, J. A. Thomas, A. C. Saxby, S. J. Robinson, B. Hill, and W. H. Hill, Hon. Secretary. A vote of sympathy was passed to Mr. Frank Palmer on the death of his father, the late Mr. Faithful Palmer. A discussion on the B.P. "Codex" was introduced by Mr. J. A. Thomas, and was continued by the Chairman, Messrs. Minchin, Saxby, Wells, and W. H. Hill. Strong exception was taken to the reprint of "A Curious Codex."

Edinburgh C., A., and A. Association.

A MEETING was held in the Pharmaceutical Society's House, 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, November 27, Mr. E. O. Rowland (President) in the chair. Mr.

J. Rutherford Hill, Ph.C., by means of a large collection of fruits and seeds, systematically arranged, gave a practical demonstration on the structure and classification of fruits. Mr. Hill also exhibited an excellent and beautifully mounted herbarium of plants collected chiefly in the Leslie district of Fife by Mr. A. Leslie Brown, apprentice to Mr. Alexander Spence, chemist, Leslie, and by his sister, Miss Isabella Brown. The collection had gained the first prize at the Kirkcaldy Naturalists' Association.

Sunderland Chemists' Association.

THE examination for the "Burroughs Wellcome" prize was held in the Technical College on November 12. There were ten candidates. As there was a great difference in the length of apprenticeship served—and in consequence would be difficult to judge the papers fairly or induce the junior apprentices to sit—it was decided to offer a second prize (a copy of the "Codex"). A set of twenty-four questions was accordingly drawn up. Each candidate was allotted a number, which he put on his paper, with the length of apprenticeship served, and in adjudging the papers allowance was made accordingly. The time allowed was an hour and a half. The report of the examiner, Mr. S. Dunstan, F.C.S., Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, showed that Mr. T. Lamb, apprentice with Mr. C. Ranken, won the "Remington," and Mr. G. C. Hodgson, son of Mr. C. Hodgson, chemist, the "Codex," and that the work on the whole was very creditably done. The arrangements were carried out by the following sub-committee: Messrs. C. Ranken, F.C.S., T. Walton, R. H. Bell, W. Nunns, and R. Anderson, F.C.S. (Hon. Sec.).

Harrogate Pharmaceutical Association.

THE first meeting of the session was held on Friday, November 22, Mr. Southwell (President), Knaresborough, in the chair. There were present Messrs. J. H. Wilson, J.P., C.C., Atkinson, Eynon, Fenn, Handford, Harper, Hines, Lawrence (Knaresborough), Mote, sen. (Ripon), Sol Taylor, G. Weston (Hon. Treasurer), and Leak (Hon. Secretary). Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Battle (Ripon), L. Foster (Camwal), and Parsons-Rogers (B. W. & Co.). A very hearty reception was given to the President, who, after a very able and racy speech, invited the members of the Association to an evening at Knaresborough. Mr. Weston opened a short discussion on the desirability of joining the Federation of Local Pharmaceutical Associations, which was adjourned. A very enjoyable smoking-concert then took place. Mr. J. H. Wilson contributed one of his characteristic speeches, finishing up with a recitation which was enthusiastically received. Songs were given by Messrs. Mote, Sol Taylor, Atkinson, Lawrence, Hines, and G. Weston, Mr. Hines officiating at the piano.

Keighley Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Devonshire Hotel on Thursday, November 28, Mr. A. S. Dean (President) in the chair, and there was an exceptionally good attendance.

SALE OF EASTON'S SYRUP.—A short discussion took place upon the sale and dispensing of poisons under Section 17 of the Pharmacy Act. Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant said that the whole question depended on the legal interpretation of the word "Dispense."—Mr. Ecroyd said that in the past chemists, as a whole, had neglected to fulfil the instructions of the Act, and by so doing they had weakened their own position. He thought, however, that they were now doing their very best to strengthen the position that they had taken up.—Mr. Sargeant said he thought that the chemists were rather trying to regain the position which they had lost.

DIAMONDS.—Mr. Sargeant delivered a lecture on "Diamonds," in the course of which he indicated the methods which have been employed to produce diamonds artificially. He also described the different points of well-cut stones, and concluded by a summary of the history of

some of the most celebrated diamonds, representations of which were displayed. After the lecture the members inspected Mr. Sargeant's imitation diamonds, and looked through a microscope at the scintillations of a few grains of radium bromide which the lecturer had brought with him.—The President moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Sargeant, which Mr. Ecroyd and others supported.

Dewsbury Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Church House, Dewsbury, on Monday evening, December 2, Mr. J. Day (President) in the chair. There were also present Mr. R. Gledhill and Mr. G. N. Gutteridge (Dewsbury), Mr. W. Blakeley (Birstall), Mr. Craven (Cleckheaton), Mr. J. Rhodes (Mirfield), Mr. S. N. Pickard (Ossett), Mr. A. B. Barker and Mr. W. Stead (Heckmondwike), Mr. R. Broadhead (Batley), and Mr. G. Walker, Secretary.

CAMWAL, LTD., writing in regard to crediting members of the Association with syphons collected in the district, asked for a list of members. This was supplied; whereupon the company replied that there were chemists in the Dewsbury district who did not appear on the list. How would the Association deal with any syphons which may belong to such chemists? Mr. Gledhill proposed that any syphons going into the store which had a number or label on showing they belonged to either members or non-members be credited to the respective parties; and if without mark of identification they be credited to the Association. This was seconded by Mr. Gutteridge, and carried.

OTHER BUSINESS.—Mr. S. A. Sheard resigned his membership, as he is too busy to attend the meetings.—Mr. R. Gledhill was elected to represent the Association at the dinner of the Bradford Chemists' Association on December 10.—Martha Long (Croydon), T. C. Beach (Stroud), J. Leach (Crawley), and W. Stratton (Fulham) were recommended for Benevolent Fund votes.—Mr. Broadhead, in reporting on his recent visit to the Leeds Association, stated that during the evening thirty-seven guineas was collected on behalf of the Benevolent Fund. He had raised the question of the unsatisfactory state of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, with regard to the different sections of the Act contradicting each other. When they came to question any of the officials of the Pharmaceutical Society they could never, he said, get a straightforward answer on any of those questions. They told them one thing to-day and another thing to-morrow.—Subsequently the members went into committee on the Pharmaceutical Organisation Scheme.

Leicester Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the Turkey Café, Granby Street, on December 3. Mr. S. F. Burford took the chair. There were also present Messrs. Avery, Blockley, Clarke, Clear, Fry, Hearnshaw, Hind, Jones, Ough, Peberdy, Rowe, Thirlby, Ward, and Marfitt.

EXCHANGE-LIST.—Mr. Marfitt announced that he had not as yet received any lists from members of "Dispensing unusualities" to form the proposed exchange-register, but that a number of members had promised to send him lists as soon as they had time to get them out.

NEW MEMBERS.—The following were elected: Messrs. Clarke, B. C. Jones, and C. C. Marsden. It was announced by the Secretary that, Mr. Crookhall having left the town and having resigned his seat on the Committee, Mr. Lewis had been co-opted by the Committee to act in his stead.

THE SOCIETY'S "CODEX."—Mr. Burford then introduced a discussion on the "British Pharmaceutical Codex." He showed a number of interesting old Herbals and Pharmacopœias, including a Herbal published by Linnaker in the sixteenth century, illustrated with woodcuts and printed in Latin. The copy was annotated by marginal notes, evidently done by some student of the period. The issue of the "B.P. Codex" is a new departure, and he thought, on the whole, a capital idea. It is perhaps a pity that it included what is already in the B.P. It is, if anything, too elaborate for his liking; it might have been made more terse, more like Squire's "Companion" or Martindale's "Extra Pharmacopœia." It might be much more useful if the letterpress of the monographs had been subdivided into headings, so that one could find just what one needed

without having to read all through the monographs to find it.—Mr. A. D. Hearnshaw thought it a great pity errors were so numerous, but that could be remedied. It certainly would, he thought, hit "speciality" firms rather hard; but as things are nowadays that would be a good thing. It certainly was a good deal fuller than the B.P. The latter was issued by the Medical Council, who would perhaps not view the publication of the "Codex" with altogether unmixed pleasure.—Mr. Hind thought it was an honest attempt on the part of the Society to grapple with the evil of "quackery" and the foisting upon medical men and the public of numberless proprietary preparations, often the same substances having several different proprietary names and being sold under those names at enhanced prices. Mr. Fry did not consider it quite right to publish too soon to the public results of a man's or a firm's original research.—Mr. Burford, replying to Mr. Fry, said no hard-and-fast rule could be laid down, but it was open to any man or firm to "patent" an article and thus get protection for their originality for a number of years; but protection was limited by the patent laws. It is certainly a bit "rough" on originators if their labours are to be immediately copied; but, like an author's copyright, the right of benefit should be owned for a time, and then accrue to the public.

Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the Mikado Café on December 4. Mr. C. F. Carr presided, and there were also present Messrs. Middleton, A. Eberlin, Freeman, Beilby, Meakin, H. C. Prince, French, H. P. Middleton, Royce, K. Nixon, Plattin, Rayson, W. Gill, and Turton.

NEW MEMBERS.—The following were elected: Messrs. C. C. H. Cadge, H. P. Middleton, W. Wyatt, and W. A. Burrage. Messrs. F. Johnson and G. F. Godson were nominated for membership.

Mr. W. Gill read a paper on

ADVERTISING.

He said that how to advertise is a problem of vital importance, not to tradesmen alone, but to nearly everyone. Throughout nature the struggle for existence had developed two instincts in everything that had life. One is the instinct of self-defence, which prompted to secrecy when danger is near; the other is the instinct of self-aggrandisement and display when the environment is favourable. The keen competition which created the necessity for display advertisements cannot be essentially evil. Would it not be wiser to look upon the struggle for existence as an incentive to greater achievements rather than as a curse? Competition makes for progress, and if chemists would make the best of life they must accept it as such. During the last twenty years two influences had been at work which had greatly increased the necessity for advertising. One is the advent of a new form of trading known as multiple shops and departmental stores. By cut prices and other inducements these had attracted the public in ever-increasing numbers. The second cause is the opening-up of new districts by the introduction of electric tramways. As sellers, it is necessary to have a good article to advertise, otherwise they had better not spend any money upon it. Another essential is that the advertisement should be seasonable and adapted to the class to whom it is addressed. At one time the favourite form of advertising for chemists was a handbill; but this appears to have fallen on evil days, and under the most favourable conditions only about 1 per cent. of bills bring direct results. Small blotters or calendars issued at Christmastide are a good idea, as these are kept in use for months; but in the lecturer's opinion one of the most foolish forms of advertising is that of extreme cutting of prices. He failed to see that there is any moral difference between the act of taking money from another man's pocket and that of preventing that other man from putting into his pocket the money he had honestly earned. Another form of advertising open to censure is that of keeping open later than the majority of one's competitors.

In the course of the discussion which followed Mr. Beilby emphasised the necessity of making the advertisement suitable for the district. What seemed to him to be the most valuable asset of the chemist is the window. No man could dress a window well without getting some

good result from it. It is wise to make a special show of one particular article; to crowd into a window a heterogeneous mass of little things produced no result.—Mr. A. Eberlin said that an advertiser should not make invidious comparisons with his competitors. A catchy thing is what they must look to to make a success of advertising. The best form of advertisement, to his mind, is that which had an attractive picture.—Mr. Rayson said that a good deal depends not only upon the quality of an article, but upon the happy name a man hits upon.—The discussion was also contributed to by Messrs. Meakin and Nixon, and on the motion of Mr. Royce, seconded by Mr. Middleton, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Gill.

Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society.

A MEETING was held at the rooms of the Literary and Philosophical Society, Church Street, on Monday, December 2, Mr. H. Antcliffe (President) in the chair. There were also present Messrs. J. B. Pater (Hon. Secretary), G. T. W. Newsholme, G. Squire, H. G. Williams, J. G. Jackson, J. Austen, J. Chadwick, J. T. Appleton, R. D. Douglas, F. W. Whitworth, J. Evans, F.I.C., F.C.S., J. Dale, and W. Heaton.

SALE OF PART I. POISONS.—The President read a letter from the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society regarding Mr. Bernard Ellis's suggestion that it is not necessary for the introducer to be known to the purchaser of a poison. Mr. Bremridge said:

In regard to the ease cited in your letter, I have not the slightest shadow of a doubt that the whole transaction is illegal, and I feel sure that any court of law would hold that the fact of the introducer being unknown to the purchaser would be a fatal bar to a legal sale.

Mr. Appleton said that correspondents generally appeared to support his contention that you can put up 4 oz. of Easton's syrup in a bottle and call it a prescription. After some discussion the matter was allowed to drop, it being understood that it would be brought up for further consideration at a future date.

"BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CODEX."—Mr. F. W. Whitworth opened a discussion on this matter. This consisted of a series of suggestive notes on the monographs, the following being of most general interest:

Acid. sulphuric, dilut. was given as a solvent of sulphate of quinine; 12 drops dissolves 10 grains, but no mention was made of the quantity of water. He found that at low temperatures crystallisation took place.

Camphor-water is made from spirit. After standing for some weeks a distinct flavouring of paraldehyde is noticeable.

Asafetida.—In varnishing asafetida pills ether and sandarach are preferable to alcohol and sandarach, the alcohol dissolving 65 to 75 per cent. of the asafetida. Syrup of orange is a good excipient.

Mr. Whitworth expressed the opinion that the "Codex" is a useful publication to pharmacists and medical men.—The President thought the "Codex" was on right lines, and would help to stop quackery.—Mr. Pater referred to the preparations of cascara sagrada, and said that he had experimented with the form given in the "Codex," and he had come to the same conclusion as Mr. Hill, as he could not get the bitter taste from the cascara.—Mr. Evans also spoke favourably about the book, and criticised several points adversely.—Mr. Austen wanted two or three "'Codex' nights," and stated that the little red book to which reference had been made was the best advertisement the "Codex" had received, they having already sold several copies as a direct result of inquiries arising out of it.—Mr. Newsholme said as one of the committee responsible for the "Codex" he agreed, but added that the book would not be worth anything at all if it were not criticised. Referring to secret remedies, he said the "Codex" would enable medical men to know what they were prescribing, in preference to prescribing remedies the composition of which is unknown to them. In reply to Mr. Pater's question as to the Pharmaceutical Society's copyright in the formulæ, there was no reason whatever why formulæ should not be issued to medical men, provided the letters "B.P.C." were included. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Whitworth.

West Riding Federation of Chemists' Associations.

THE annual meeting of this Federation was held on December 3 at the Grand Restaurant, Leeds. The President (Mr. A. Hanson) occupied the chair, and delegates were present from most of the affiliated Associations.

ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary read a brief report, which stated that there had been a loss of 1*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* on the dinner. Only three Associations had paid their affiliation fee during the year, and the balance now in hand is 5*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—Officers for the coming year were elected as follows: President, Mr. A. Hanson; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Rhodes (Mirfield) and F. Pilkington Sargeant (Leeds); Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Broadhead.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PHARMACY ACT.—Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant then read his paper on "The Desirability of Transferring the Administration of the Pharmacy Act from the Pharmaceutical Society to the Local Authorities." He disclaimed any hostile spirit in introducing the subject, as all present were members of the Society. He contended that Parliament had no intention of placing the whole administration of the Act in the hands of the Society. The opposite, indeed, was the case, for in the discussion on Clause 2 one of the members, who took a great interest in the measure, said, "You will want somebody to prosecute under this Act, and the Pharmaceutical Society will be a most unfit body. The Act ought to be placed under the care of the police and in the hands of a Department of the Government, and certainly not left in the hands of those who will live by the sale of poison; if that be so, the restrictions imposed will be of little value." No prosecuting body was, however, appointed; and, though it has been held in Scotland that the Registrar is a very proper person to prosecute, it must be admitted that he has not the necessary machinery. The majority of chemists have nothing to fear from the present administration of the Pharmacy Acts. They carry on their work in strict conformity with the law, and are very careful in selling poisons; they would gain by the change, not only because the patent-medicine vendors and the horticultural dealers and the large drug-stores would lose their custom, but they would no longer have to act as spies upon their fellow-townsmen—a duty which is most obnoxious.

In the discussion which took place Mr. Worfolk said he did not like the idea of handing over the conduct of prosecutions to the police or a Government Department, because it would be like putting themselves into the hands of their enemies instead of being in the hands of their friends.—Mr. Pickard said the difficulty which presented itself to his mind was whether the administration of the Act would be better under the local authorities than it is under the Council of the Society.—Mr. Gledhill said there is any amount of proof that the administration of the Pharmacy Act is not carried out as it ought to be. There are scores of infringements of the Act constantly taking place which are known to the Local Secretary, whose work, however, is so unpleasant that he does not like to bring a man to ruin by laying down information.—Mr. Broadhead said it is admitted on all hands that the Pharmacy Act is not properly administered, and the only question is how to improve the administration. It is about thirty-nine years since the Pharmacy Act was passed, and if they were to judge the administration by the results, they must admit that there is something radically wrong. He suggested some system of licensing, by which the local authorities could enter premises where the illegal sale of poisons is suspected, and where a conviction could be obtained merely upon proof that poisons are stored upon the premises. The Act is carried out at present unequally at different places, depending upon the circumstances of individual men. There is a difficulty at headquarters, inasmuch as the leaders of this Pharmaceutical Society do not understand the position of those chemists in the North in regard to selling poisons, the councillors not having to deal with similar circumstances. To carry out the provisions of the Act fully and strictly would endanger some of the trade-names to which some of the leaders of the Society are attached, and consequently that portion of Section 17 which demands that the name of the seller should be on the shop has never been effectively enforced, and is not likely to be.—Mr. Beacock complained of the impossibility of obtaining

declarations from the Society as to the exact meaning of the word "dispensing" in Section 17 and other matters upon which he held the members are left in doubt.

Further discussion having taken place, it was decided to refer the question to the affiliated Associations, in order that they might give a direction to their representatives for the next meeting of the Federation, when it is proposed a resolution shall be moved on the subject.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

A MEETING was held at 73 Newman Street, W., on November 28, Mr. W. G. Northey (President) in the chair. The second of a series of papers on commercial subjects which will be given this session was contributed by Mr. E. T. Neathercoat on

SUCCESSFUL ADVERTISING.

He said that nothing is more deceptive than the public memory. It is a slate on which the wet sponge goes as often as the pencil, and what is a figure to-day is to-morrow only a blank space. This, therefore, is the material with which we have to deal, and on which our advertising has to act; and the science of handling that material rightly is really the secret of success in advertising. We cannot secure a succession of crops in business or agricultural pursuits if we neglect the indispensable formula of sowing the seed, and if our advertising is of the right sort and is persisted in with regular energy, then our customers, instead of being only just casual patrons, might, perhaps, like the revolving coast-lights, be constantly reappearing. The lecturer considered that the subject of advertising was so closely connected with business building that the general and regular advertising of the individual chemist will generally result in good business if it is carried out in the proper way. To his mind, the very common idea that unless the direct results from any one advertisement are such as to more than cover the actual cost it is a failure, is erroneous, because it takes into consideration only part of the mission of advertising. The full mission is to directly sell goods for the first part, but what is more important still is to secure permanent customers thereby. Mr. Neathercoat considered an advertisement successful if it brings customers to his establishments, even though the offer that brings them in the first place involves an immediate loss, so far as profit is concerned, and for these reasons:

1. The visit has increased your hold on these people.
2. It has made it much easier for them to come again.
3. On some subsequent occasion they will probably buy goods of a profitable nature, and which will proportionately more than pay the initial expense.

Any special scheme of advertising, in order to be of real value, should be of a kind that not only attracts people to your establishment, but also creates some favourable and not transitory impression with regard to your pharmacy, its stock, or its methods of business. Persistence and system were mentioned as the two most important constants for success in advertising, and it is of the utmost importance that possible and probable customers should be reached at frequent intervals; something or other should be sent at least once a month. A list of 100 likely or prospective customers reached once a month will do much more good than a list of 1,000 reached only once a year. On the subject of cost of advertising Mr. Neathercoat thought it a good plan to devote a certain fixed proportion of turnover for this purpose each year, and for any special proprietary a good way is to keep all the expenses and business in that particular article separate from other departments, so that details of its output, expenditure, and sales can be followed easily. The profit from such an article might then be devoted to increased advertising. Another method was to devote a certain amount of capital to advertising a proprietary, allotting a fixed proportion of the profit on sales to paying off the interest on the capital involved, and another fixed proportion, or the remaining part of the profit, being set apart to the balancing of the capital account. Having dealt with his subject generally, Mr. Neathercoat proceeded to review the various ways of advertising. To begin with, the circular or pamphlet is probably the commonest and not the least useful way of talking business. These can be distributed from door to door, enclosed in all parcels sent

out, or sent through the post. In preparing the literature, the first aim should be to attract, the second to persuade and convince. It is a good plan to place yourself as far as you can in the position of a recipient of the circular, and endeavour to imagine the construction he will put upon your sentences, and the probable effect of your illustrations on his mind. The next method is by price-lists and catalogues, and retail pharmacists might do more in this direction with distinct advantage. Another method is window-display. Mr. Neathercoat strongly advocated the advantages of the single-article display. The real potential value of a show-window lies in the number of people who pass it in a given time, and the task is to make that window catch and hold their attention. Price-tickets should be freely used, and very few investments will pay as well as a brilliantly lighted window. The mail order or postal salesmanship form of business nowadays occupies a very prominent place in commerce, and large sales in such lines as throat-pastilles, dentifrices, cough-mixtures, etc., might be made if a proper system were followed. Affinity of mind in advertising, a feature of the problem which had impressed Mr. Neathercoat, was explained. Sellers of a certain type gather to their establishments buyers of a similar bent of mind around them. Certain people will always buy from certain firms and a certain particular class of goods. In every commercial transaction there is evidence, he thought, of the power of one mind acting on another. Personality, seen or unseen, largely enters into most business dealings. Therefore, in preparing to advertise, careful consideration should be paid as to the class of people who have been your customers in the past. They will be the type of people to appeal to in your advertisements. In conclusion, special emphasis was laid upon "honesty of description" and "genuineness of the goods" advertised. Provided the article is genuine in composition and honestly described in advertisements, the good will not only of the public, but also of those who have specialised knowledge in such things, is assured. The "alpha" of advertising is to win the confidence of your public; the "omega" is certainly to hold it when once obtained.

In the subsequent discussion Messrs. Northey, Brittain, Williams, and Thompson joined, and a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Neathercoat was carried with loud applause.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on December 3, when Mr. F. H. Alcock, F.I.C., F.C.S., read a paper on

EXPERIMENTS WITH SOME OFFICIAL TINCTURES.

Mr. A. W. Southall (the President) was in the chair, and there was a good attendance. Mr. Alcock alluded at the outset to tincture of senega as giving varying analytical results in the hands of workers. For this reason he had for some time determined the amount of ash in many tinctures, although too much importance cannot be attached to this factor at present. The results obtained are as follows:

	Total Solids, Per cent.	Ash, Per cent.
Tinct. arnice	0.72	0.07
Tinct. catechu	14.4	0.34
Tinct. rhei comp.	15.0 (c. glyc.)	0.80
Tinct. cardam. comp.	6.58	0.18
Tinct. cinchonæ A.	5.93	0.12
" " B.	6.14	0.14
Tinct. cinnamomi A.	2.05	0.05
" " B.	2.15	0.05
" " C.	2.25	0.06
Tinct. aurantii A.	1.88	0.052
" " B.	2.15	0.050
Tinct. opii A.	3.3	0.175
" " B.	3.43	0.180
" " C.	4.94	0.260
Tinct. benzoini comp.	23.2	0.100
Tinct. myrrhæ	6.15	0.030
Tinct. gent. comp.	5.17	0.200

Tincture of arnica contains marked quantities of iron, which appear in the ash as ferric oxide. As the figure for ash is small it could be calculated upon the amount of total solids.

In another set of experiments he had tried the effect of water at 60° F. upon the "total solids" residues, and here again the results were curious, although the official fluid-

extracts treated were much more interesting. Three ways might be used for this method :

1. The residue from 10 c.c. or more if desirable is left in contact with 50 c.c. of distilled water over night, then poured on to a well-wetted Swedish filter-paper, the weight of which may be known, the filter-paper washed with water to 100 c.c., and, after mixing, evaporating 50 c.c. or the whole in a tared dish.
2. The dried filter-paper and its contents could be weighed. This is open to objection, as weighing on tared filter-papers is not to be recommended.
3. Let the spirit evaporate off at a low temperature, say 100° F., add water, and proceed as before.

Mr. Alcock gave examples such as the following :

Tinct. cinchonæ, total solids, 6.8 per cent., and insoluble left on the filter-paper 1.33 per cent., water soluble at 60° F., evaporated portion 4.98 per cent. A second 100 c.c. of water after being poured over the filter-paper gave a residue on evaporation of 0.1 per cent. A little was unaccounted for in this experiment, which he attributed to several causes, primarily the difficulty of the tared filter-paper process.

Tinct. cinchon. comp., total solids 5.2 per cent. Treated as above; insoluble part 0.77 per cent., soluble part 4.00 per cent. The next 100 c.c. of washing of insoluble part gave as before 0.1 per cent. There was no difficulty in telling which was simple and which was compound in the above two samples.

The determination of the specific gravity of a tincture at 60° F. is a tedious operation to the busy retail pharmacist, for coefficients of expansion are not always available, and to get the right temperature takes time. The wholesaler has not this difficulty, as he would use a Westphal's balance, and complete a hundred samples in very little time. The hydrometer cannot be commended for this purpose, and as this operation has an important bearing on the alcohol-content—a most important factor in the estimation of the value of a tincture—it is desirable to adopt some other means which will give some indication as to its right alcoholic percentage.

He suggested the following process for treating tincture of iodine before distillation, which he suggested some years ago :

Shake a suitable quantity of the iodine tincture with mercury, add a little NaOH afterwards, and proceed with the distillation in the usual way, taking the sp. gr. of the distillate.

He also gave the following process, which will be found useful for arriving at the alcoholic value of the tincture, or rather would give some idea as to the amount of water which was present in the sample.

Three c.c. of the tincture is mixed with 3 c.c. of benzene and 3 c.c. of amyl alcohol. On well shaking the mixture and setting aside for some time, a lower layer will make its appearance, and as the operation will be conducted in a 10-c.c. graduated test-tube, the quantity could be read off.

Mr. Alcock here performed an estimation and gave a large number of results. He characterised the test as one that could play the part of a policeman.

Glycerin in tinctures is a notorious trouble, but happily examples of it occur but three times in the Pharmacopœia—tincture of kino, tincture of chloroform and morphine, and compound tincture of rhubarb—quite enough to worry the analyst. To the last he had given much time, with regard to the determination of the amount of the glycerin-content, and with poor results. The process favoured was one in which the glycerin was separated from the tincture and treated by a lead-precipitation method, in which the PbS was separated and weighed. The results were only approximate. Mr. Alcock finally gave some remarks on tinct. benz. co., referring to Mr. Dowdard's suggestion to use freshly ignited magnesium oxide in determining the solids. He had used pure zinc oxide with some success, but preferred pure lead oxide. No odour is evolved, and when the dry residue is treated with alcohol a lead compound is removed which might prove to be a useful addition to the methods of examining the tincture.

DISCUSSION.

The Chairman, opening the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, said that anything in connection with tinctures must be of interest to pharmacists, and the paper appeared to him to possess many novel points.

Mr. H. W. Jones said the determination of the ash of

tinctures was new to him, and seemed to possess some merit. The determination of the total solids would be expected to be constant, seeing that the ingredients used are always relatively the same in amount. He explained his method for determining these in tinct. benz. co., and stated that the loss in one hour was frequently as much as 1.9 per cent. of volatile constituents; and even a second and third hour's drying caused a similar diminution in weight. The recommendation of magnesia would be useful in this direction; so, too, would be lead oxide. With reference to the tared filter-paper method, if the old-fashioned way of weighing with a well-stoppered tube were adopted, there would be less likelihood of discordant results. He was able to confirm the statement with regard to the solubility of the total solids in rhubarb tincture, for he had made experiments with both water and spirit of varying strength, and found that the yield to those by rhubarb lay between 3.2 and 4.3 per cent. He thought, with reference to the colour of the lead precipitate from the rhubarb, that Mr. Alcock had lighted upon a colorimetric method for the determination of emodin. He explained his method for determining the amount of this in rhubarb or aloes, by hydrolysis, with weak acid, the subsequent addition of excess of alkali, and comparison with aloes emodin.

Mr. E. W. Mann criticised Mr. Alcock's figures for tinct. benz. co., and said it would not get into Ireland, where they required total solids not to exceed 20 per cent., or the alcohol-content would be too low. He had never been able to get such figures for rhubarb tincture as those in the paper. He would like to know how much of the glycerin was driven off during evaporation, and thought that the constituents dissolved in water from the tincture residues would become insoluble during the drying-down process. The variation of the figures for tinct. catechu was due to enzymic action taking place as in kino, and this he had found to be the case with tincture of Virginian pine. He suspected that the PbO would saponify the tolu esters, and loss of benzylic alcohol would ensue during the process of drying. The method for the comparative determination of water in tinctures is novel and appears to be very valuable, as a dozen tinctures could quickly be determined.

Mr. A. W. Gerrard did not think much glycerin was vaporised, and mentioned an interesting process for determining glycerin in such complexities as had been referred to, which in the main consisted of the use of borax and sodium carbonate and measuring the carbon dioxide evolved. The enzymic action referred to by Mr. Mann had been worked out by Mr. E. White, who had suggested heating to destroy the enzymes. The process for retaining iodine in the tincture might be improved if precipitated metallic lead were used, the lead iodide being not likely to volatilise. In the tube process shown resins would influence the result, and constancy possibly could not be expected. With reference to the abstraction of water from spirit, the old plan was to use dry potassium carbonate.

Mr. Alcock, referring to Mr. Jones's criticisms, thought the official process did not ensure the removal of all the calcium chloride, and that, in conjunction with the double filter, rendered the tared filter-paper process open to objection. He was glad to find some corroboration of his notes from Mr. Jones's experience. Alluding to Mr. Mann's observations, Mr. Alcock said with reference to compound tincture of benzoin he was not able to explain the high solids, but probably Ireland preferred the whisky to the gums. He thought, with Mr. Mann, that the glycerin would volatilise, but was glad to learn that there is not so much fear as they thought. It is quite true that tincture of cinchona solids become insoluble on evaporation. He did not think the esters suffered change, because the drying is complete in two hours' time, and either he must have had a very bad cold at the time, for no odours were evolved, or the alcohols referred to did not possess an odour. With reference to Mr. Gerrard's interesting process, Mr. Alcock said he had experimented in that direction, but not on the carbon dioxide point; he had tried neutralisation of the acids set free. He directed attention to the dehydrating of alcohol by the benzene method adopted by Dr. Young, who read a paper on the subject before the B.P.C. Bristol meeting. From this it would be found that the specific gravity of the alcohol obtained is below Mendeléeff's figures.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. John Wakefield, a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Alcock.

Derby Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the Bell Hotel on December 3, Mr. Readman (President) in the chair. Messrs. Cope, Hefford, Blaylock, Heath, Haynes, Elmet, Pattison, Joy, Riley, Burton, and Taylor were also present.

SALE OF POISONS.—Mr. Blaylock opened a discussion on "The Sale of Poisons," pointing out various cases in which the attitude of the chemist towards the sale of a poison in Schedule I. is open to doubt. One instance brought forward was the dispensing of a printed prescription containing liquor arsenicalis. It was decided that the safest plan was to treat all cases of this character, where the order or prescription is not known to come from a medical practitioner, as the sale of a poison in Part I. of the Schedule. Some difficulty was experienced in dealing with solutions of cocaine 5 or 10 per cent., or solutions of perchloride of mercury 1 in 40 or 1 in 20. Should these be regarded as preparations and sold under Part II., or should they be treated as the substance itself and sold under Part I.? The Secretary was directed to ascertain the official opinion on the matter, and, in the meantime, these bodies will be sold under Part I. It was decided to refuse all requests for the sale of prussic acid, and also that, in return for the obligation placed on chemists, they should be allowed more scope for the exercise of their discretion.

Society of Chemical Industry.

LONDON SECTION.

A MEETING of this Section took place on December 2 at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., Mr. R. J. Friswell in the chair.

NAPHTHALENE ESTIMATION.—After the minutes had been read, Mr. C. J. Dickenson-Gair was asked to give his paper on "The Estimation of Naphthalene in Coal-gas and in Spent Oxide of Iron." Some two years ago, when Mr. Gair read a paper on this subject (*C. & D.*, December 9, 1905, p. 925), it was suggested that he should modify the process by making it volumetric instead of gravimetric. Naphthalene pierate is formed, and was in the first method weighed. The author now boils the precipitated naphthalene with excess of caustic-soda solution, and titrates while hot, first with picric acid and then with caustic soda, using lacmoid as the indicator, the amount of naphthalene being calculated from the difference.—There was a short discussion, in which Dr. Coleman and Dr. Rideal took part, and Mr. Gair in reply gave his reasons for preferring lacmoid as an indicator, although phenolphthalein is excellent. He pronounced the last-named indicator phenolphthalein.

RUBBER COAGULATION.—Dr. P. Schidrowitz followed with a note on "The Influence of Formal on the Properties of *Funtumia elastica*." It appears that a sample of latex from Uganda was sent to the author to which formaldehyde had been added as an anti-coagulant. The addition, however, acted as a coagulant, and the resulting rubber was found when tested to have superior physical characters, especially as regards toughness. Dr. Schidrowitz suggested that this indicated the possibility of producing rubber with special qualities for specific purposes.—In the discussion which followed Mr. W. F. Reid asked what was the effect of vulcanisation on the formaldehyde rubber.—Dr. Rideal said smoke is used as a coagulant, and smoke contains formaldehyde. He asked why the author did not use the proper name, formaldehyde, and Dr. Schidrowitz interposed that formal was the scientific designation.—Dr. Rideal also said that in his experience the price of rubber depends upon what the brokers will give for it, not upon its quality.—Dr. Lewkowitsch asked what was the action of formaldehyde on rubber: it seems to have the property of hardening everything.—Another member objected to the statement that quality was not the criterion upon which brokers bought rubber, but admitted that there are qualities in rubber not disclosed by chemical analysis.—The Chairman challenged Dr. Rideal's statement that smoke contains formaldehyde.—The author in reply said that the vulcanisation-test is not practicable for ordinary use, but that by an assay of the moisture, resin, breaking strain, etc., with a fair amount of common sense, it is possible to form an opinion of any sample of rubber.

SUCROSE DETERMINATION.—The next communication was

from the Government laboratory of the Leeward Islands. The paper was read for the authors—Dr. F. Watts and Mr. H. A. Tempany—by Dr. Thorne. In the polariscopic determination of sugar in raw sugar and molasses it is usual to clear the liquid by adding solution of basic lead acetate. This introduces a source of error, as the precipitate diminishes the bulk of liquid. The authors, by numerous experiments, settled this point and then set to work to improve the method. It was found that Horne's suggestion of using powdered anhydrous lead acetate in place of solution obviated this source of error. The effect of differences of temperature on the polariscope and solution was studied, as also the error caused by small quantities of "levulose of lead" entering into solution. A special method was mentioned of clearing molasses by using a small quantity of powdered lead acetate, followed by sulphurous acid.—Mr. Julian Baker commented on the enormous literature that has grown up round this subject. He has found the use of phospho-molybdic acid act as a valuable clarifier in certain conditions.—Mr. Grant Hooper remarked that there is a tendency to use too much acid and boil too long when inverting sugar.—Another member spoke of the use of sodium bisulphite as a precipitant of excess of lead.—Dr. Thorne, in reply, said that the authors inverted at 70° C., as they considered the boiling temperature too high. He acknowledged that to change the method of estimating for sucrose makes an important difference in the commerce of sugar, but had hopes that the international committee which is studying the question of unification will be able to come to an amicable agreement in such matters.

NIAM FAT.—Dr. J. Lewkowitsch gave a note on this fat, which is obtained from the kernels of *Lophira alata*, a tree indigenous to Senegambia, Sierra Leone, and the Egyptian Soudan. The seeds are winged, hence the name *alata*. Some work on the subject has been recently published by the Tropical Research Department of the Liverpool University. In reply to Mr. Grant Hooper, Dr. Lewkowitsch gave some further particulars. The following are the characters of niam fat, the first figures being those of fat extracted from the kernels in England, the figures in parentheses referring to that extracted by natives: Sp. gr. at 40° C. 0.9105 (0.9063); saponification value, 195.6 (190.1); acid value, 18.54 (5.78); unsaponifiable matter, 1.49 (1.33); iodine value, 68.4 (73.72); mean molecular weight of the fatty acids (283.7); solidifying point of the fatty acids (42.5° C.). Niam fat is an edible fat somewhat similar to palm oil. It is also used as a hair oil. Mention of the melting-point suggested that the candle-maker may find the fat useful, and led the doctor to give a few *obiter dicta* about the candle industry. He maintained that the candle industry has made great strides within recent years, and that the candle as a ready and portable means of obtaining light is still unapproached by modern inventions. He looked to Nigeria as the source of raw vegetable products in the future, the supply being practically unlimited.—Mr. Sage referred to the pronunciation of the word Niam. It should not, he said, be confounded with Neem or Margosa oil, of which some was recently offered in Mincing Lane.—Dr. Lewkowitsch replied that these native names do not follow any rules of pronunciation, but that the geographical source of the oil would prevent confusion. The trouble that manufacturers experience in regard to new products which occasionally turn up at Mincing Lane is that the supply is intermittent. It often requires the installation of special plant to deal with a new raw material, and then perhaps it is found that no more of the product is obtainable. With improved means of transport and the awakening of the commercial instinct in West African natives this difficulty would perhaps be overcome.—The Chairman said the samples of seeds passed round were mouldy and infested with insects; and Dr. Lewkowitsch smilingly acknowledged that he had had them by him for some time, but that he had only that morning taken out the camphor which is supposed to keep away insect pests.—In reply to an objection that for an edible oil the fat had an abominable smell, the author said there is no accounting for tastes, but that the odour complained of could readily be removed. In Germany linseed oil is used as a food for man; and the Chairman capped this by stating that in a factory he once worked in the men soaked their dinner-bread in linseed oil.—A member interposed with the remark, "A very good thing it is, too."

Births.

BARKER.—At Arthur Road, Horsham, on November 30, the wife of Donald W. F. Barker, chemist and druggist, of a son.

FARMER.—At Penshurst Road, South Hackney, on December 1, the wife of Frederick Farmer (of F. Farmer & Co., specialists in rat-destroying), of a son.

HEBDITCH.—At Alma Road, Retford, on November 25, the wife of John R. Hebditch, chemist and druggist, of a daughter.

Marriage.

BAISS—WEBSTER.—At Buenos Ayres, on November 27, William Arnold Bais, eldest son of Mr. Arnold Bais, Nevin, Herne Hill, to Margarita Elena, youngest daughter of Dr. Webster, Las Palmas, Buenos Ayres.

Deaths.

BARBER.—At Burnfields, on December 2, Mr. John Barber, aged eighty-two. Mr. Barber, who was one of the best-known men in the district, had been dispenser for medical men in Chapel-en-le-Frith for more than fifty years.

CUSSENS.—At his residence, Dorchester House, Hull, on November 30, Mr. William Cussons (founder of the business of William Cussons, Ltd., general providers, Hull), aged sixty-three. The business which Mr. Cussons founded in quite a small way has now twenty-three branches in Hull and district, and in several of these branches there are drug departments with qualified managers in charge. The drug business done by the company is considerable. At one time the company co-operated, for buying purposes only, with Duckworth's, of Oldham, and with Messrs. Hodgson & Hepworth, Ltd., of Doncaster, thus enabling them to buy drugs, sundries, &c., in large quantities, and to mutual advantage. The directors (or buyers) met monthly for that purpose.

FORREST.—At 223 St. Mary's Road, Sheffield, on November 28, Carrie, wife of Mr. G. I. Forrest, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-two.

GAUBERT.—At Wembley, on November 17, Mr. Stephen Gaubert, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-four.

GILCHRIST.—At Scarborough, on December 2, Mr. Robert Gilchrist, chemist and druggist, aged forty-three. A Scotsman by birth, Mr. Gilchrist went to Scarborough in 1838 as an assistant to Mr. John Whitfield, chemist. Later he commenced business on his own account, and when the late Mr. J. M. Crosby's business was taken over by the present company (Messrs. Crosby & Co.) Mr. Gilchrist became the managing director. He had been for years an earnest student of literature, botany, and natural history, and was equally at home with birds and wild flowers. Mr. Gilchrist was often to be seen in Raincliff searching for fungi, and he made at one time a list of over 150 local spiders. He was besides a competent geologist, and in his enthusiasm for botany he made an annual practice of visiting all the rare wild flowers of the district with a view to protecting them from extermination. He was one of the most ardent members of the local Field Naturalists' Society, of which he was twice president, and up to the time of his death he was a member of the Council of the Philosophical Society. Mr. Gilchrist was always ready to assist beginners in his favourite pursuits, and he frequently lectured in the town and the neighbouring villages. He was a member of the Unitarian Church, a member of the Peace Society, and a total abstainer. Mr. Gilchrist's early death is much deplored, he being among the most respected of the business men of Scarborough. He leaves a widow and two children, of whom his son is a student at Leeds University, being the holder of a University scholarship, which he won in open competition at Scarborough, while the daughter

is a scholar at the local Municipal School. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, December 4.

MITCHELL.—The death of Mr. W. J. Mitchell occurred recently in Toronto. Mr. Mitchell had been for many years a wholesale and retail druggist in Winnipeg, starting there in 1882. He was formerly connected with the firm of Hooper & Co., Toronto, and during the past ten years has made his residence in that city. He was an ardent sportsman and a member of several clubs in Winnipeg and Toronto. He leaves two sons and one daughter to mourn his loss.

PETERS.—At Birmingham, on November 17, Mr. John Peters, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-four.

REDMAYNE.—At Carlton Terrace, Low Fell, on November 30, Mr. Robert Robey Redmayne, for thirty years a member of the firm of H. L. Pattinson & Co., chemical manufacturers, Felling-on-Tyne, aged seventy-nine.

RICE.—At 11 Union Street, Borough, London, S.E., Mr. Richard Edward Rice, chemist and druggist, aged seventy-two.

SHORROCK.—At 46 Knatchbull Road, Camberwell, S.E., on November 29, after a short illness, Mr. J. Shorrock, for nineteen years a representative of Bovril, Ltd., of Old Street, E.C.

WITHERINGTON.—At Bromsgrove, Birmingham, on November 24, Mr. Thomas James Witherington, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-eight.

Personalities.

ALDERMAN RALPH SHORROCK, chemist and druggist, Darwin's ex-Mayor, has been elected Chairman of the Health Committee.

MR. SAMUEL HALL, F.I.C., F.C.S., of Messrs. Edward Cook & Co., Ltd., and Treasurer of the Society of Chemical Industry, has had a serious illness, but is now out of danger.

MR. P. H. BURTON, chemist and druggist, Cambridge Road, Bethnal Green, has been re-elected treasurer of the South-West Bethnal Green Conservative Association.

MR. A. HIGGS, J.P., Kingston, was nominated to a vacant seat on the Kingston Board of Guardians, but retired in favour of one of his brother-magistrates who was also nominated.

MR. JOHN STEWART LAING, chemist and druggist, has retired from the business of Cresswell & Laing, Burnt Ash Road, Lee, S.E., and may now be addressed at 3 Stanford Road, Norbury, S.W.

MR. THOMAS TYRER (to the outrage upon whom we referred last week) desires to express his appreciation of the kind sympathy of so great a number of inquirers, requests us to thank one and all, and to say that he is steadily recovering from any ill-effects.

MR. R. C. WALSHAW, the President of the Huddersfield Chemists' Association, has been appointed a member of the Council of the Huddersfield Incorporated Chamber of Commerce. The previous week he was elected President of the Huddersfield Chamber of Trade. Mr. Walshaw has undertaken to keep a register of assistants and of youths desiring to become apprentices, a plan which should prove a convenience to tradesmen generally.

On November 30, Sir Albert Spicer, M.P. for Central Hackney, was present at a "Welcome Home" at the Gayhurst Road Schools, Dalston, arranged by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pentney, in honour of Sir Albert's return from his South African tour. Among other prominent Liberals present at Mr. Pentney's reception was Sir W. Randall Cremer, M.P. for Haggerston, who, in the course of a short speech, assured his hearers, "on the highest authority," that there was not a word of truth in the rumour that there would be a general election after the next Session of Parliament. The fact that Sir Randall Cremer was recently speaking on the same platform as the Prime Minister makes it pretty evident who "the highest authority" was, and this is interesting to chemists, in so far as it is fairly probable that the Pharmacy Bill will yet be dealt with by the present Government.

General Medical Council.

THE autumn session was continued on Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29, closing late on the latter day. The whole of Thursday was devoted to the consideration of a charge of infamous conduct in a professional respect brought against Mr. John P. Nicolas, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., 87 Downhill Road, Catford, S.E., by the London and Counties Medical Protection Society. The charge was of systematically canvassing in Catford for patients, by personal visits to patients of Mr. Thomas William Atkinson and to others. When the case came on it was evident that there was going to be a fight, which excited considerable interest, for more than a score of witnesses (about half of them ladies) put in an appearance, and the strangers' gallery was crowded. At the request of Dr. Nicolas's solicitor (Mr. Hemming), the witnesses withdrew during the hearing. Dr. Hugh Woods (representing the Protection Society) stated that Dr. Nicolas became an assistant to Dr. Atkinson in September 1906, and remained with him until June 1907, when they parted good friends. Dr. Atkinson subsequently heard that Dr. Nicolas was returning to Catford, and it was alleged that the events formulated in the charge then occurred.—Dr. Atkinson supported the charge in evidence, and was cross-examined by Mr. Hemming. During the cross-examination the Council's Legal Assessor intervened on several occasions, objecting to questions put by Mr. Hemming. Mr. Hemming cross-examined Dr. Atkinson in regard to the statutory declarations which had been prepared in support of the charge, and read statutory declarations made by several of the witnesses contradicting those previously made by them in support of the charge. Mr. Hemming asked to see the original letter of complaint, and, on this being refused, he pressed his application and asked for an adjournment to enable him to apply to the Court for a *mandamus* (see "Legal Reports," p. 860).—Dr. Woods expressed his willingness that his letter of complaint should be produced, the Council allowed the letter to be read by their solicitor, and Dr. Woods undertook to supply Mr. Hemming with a copy.—The Legal Assessor thereupon stated that the procedure of the Council when dealing with penal cases is similar to that of Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. In those courts, when an information is laid, such information remains in the custody of the Justice before whom it is taken, and hardly ever passes out of his hands, but upon it a summons is framed containing the charge. In the same way, when the Council has what corresponds to an information in the way of an application in writing complaining of the conduct of any registered practitioner, the Council's solicitor frames a notice of inquiry containing the charge. The document on which the charge is founded is not a sworn document, and has to be supported by statutory declarations, which declarations are supplied with the charge. So that a person charged has particulars upon the charge of date, place, and names, and often has detailed evidence in full sent to him. He therefore gets even more than he would have in the ordinary course of the practice under summary jurisdiction. It had not been considered that, under the orders governing the procedure, an accused practitioner has any right to have the original covering letter sent to the Registrar of the Council. Everything that comes before the Council as a Council is put into the hands of the party accused. The original letter of complaint in this case contained the charge as read by the solicitor to the Council in almost the same words, and nothing else.—The time for an adjournment having arrived, the President announced that the case would be the first business of the following day. When the Council met then and the witnesses had again assembled, Mr. Hemming announced that writs of prohibition and of *mandamus* had that morning been issued against the Council and Dr. Atkinson, and he applied therefore that the case be adjourned *sine die*. After a short consultation *in camera* the President announced that the case would be postponed till next session.

The next case, that of Mr. W. H. Roberts, L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S.Ed., 63 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, the complaint being by the Irish Branch of the British Dental Association that he had knowingly assisted four un-

registered dentists—Messrs. Keogh, J. B. Dillon, William Steyn, and M. William Steyn—by administering anaesthetics.—Mr. Hugh Turner represented the complainants, and Mr. Warburton appeared for Mr. Roberts; and pleasant amenities passed between the two "learned friends." Mr. Turner hoped that the Council would see their way to postponing the case till next session, and Mr. Warburton emphasised the wish, so that his client, who is a professional man of twenty-two years' standing, should have an opportunity of proving his care in the future; Dr. Roberts admitted, and expressed contrition for, his offence.—After a very short deliberation the Council decided to postpone further consideration till next session.

Another case which excited unusual interest also unexpectedly fizzled out, as in the instance of the Catford doctors; a large number of witnesses were present, the hall and waiting-room of the Council being packed to suffocation. Five Coventry doctors—namely, Messrs. A. J. Arch, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond.; W. W. Fenton, M.B., M.D.Dubl.; T. Z. Hird, M.B., M.D.; and W. J. Pickup, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A., M.B., M.D.Lond.—were charged with being on the medical staff of the Coventry New Dispensary Service, "which systematically canvasses for patients." The complainants were Messrs. A. St. L. Burke, L.R.C.P.&S.I., A. P. B. Ellis, L.S.A., and J. I. Langley, M.R.C.S.—The President regretted to announce that Dr. Hird had died the preceding night, his death having been accelerated, counsel for the defence stated, by distress of mind following on this charge. Dr. Arch was ill, but Dr. Pickup was present.—The defendants were represented by Mr. Bodkin, Mr. Hempson, and Mr. Temple.—Mr. MacHardy, appearing for the complainants, stated that the respondents were connected with the old dispensary, but resigned last March and started the new one, employing a collector, who was, in fact, a canvasser. A statutory declaration had, however, been received from the respondents declaring that no canvassing had to their knowledge occurred, and repudiating emphatically that they had suggested or authorised any. In view of this the complainants did not propose to proceed further in the matter.—Mr. Bodkin was somewhat indignant that no apology had been offered, seeing the expense and annoyance the respondents had been put to. They had grave reasons for dissociating themselves with the old dispensary, and started the new one with the sanction and authority of the medical faculty of the whole neighbourhood; meetings were called on four occasions, and not one took exception till the fresh President came to the old dispensary. The collector was employed at a fixed salary and sent only to the patients of the old dispensary to ask if they would continue that or join the new one.—It took the Council a very short time to come to the conclusion that no professional misconduct had occurred.

The final penal case was not got through quite so quickly. Mr. J. B. Gabe, L.F.P.S.Glas., of Morriston, Swansea, and Mr. M. W. Williams, M.B., B.S.Glas., his assistant, were charged with covering an unqualified and unregistered person, named Frank Hannah; and Dr. Williams was also charged with having signed the death-certificate of a child, named Alice Jenkins, which stated that he had attended her in her last illness and had seen her alive on a certain date, when in fact he had not seen or attended her, Hannah having alone done so.—The complainant, Mr. J. Jenkins, being now in a lunatic asylum, the Council's solicitor, Mr. Winterbottom, conducted the complaint. Mr. Lemons, K.C., represented Dr. Gabe, who, with Dr. Williams, attended.—Dr. Gabe was tendered as a witness, and answered a number of questions put through the chair, Dr. Williams transmitting them to him through an ear-trumpet, Dr. Gabe being very deaf. Dr. Gabe explained that Hannah was put in charge of a branch to dispense, extract teeth, and telephone to Dr. Williams when a visit was required. He had advertised four times in the endeavour to get a qualified assistant. He wired to Edinburgh when he was falling ill, but as they had only Indians and lady doctors, who would not do, they sent Hannah, who had passed all his examinations except one, as a stop-gap. As soon as he found on his return home that Hannah had attended a patient he dismissed him.—Mr. Williams was also questioned. He admitted that he signed the certificate, acting in error on the spur of the moment.—The Council found after deliberation *in camera* that the facts alleged against Dr. Gabe had

not been proved to their satisfaction. In the case of Mr. Williams the facts had been proved, but the matter would be adjourned till next session.

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA.

The Pharmacopœia Committee, which consists of the President (Chairman), Dr. Norman Moore, Dr. Barts, Sir John Moore, Sir George Philipson, Sir Thomas Fraser, Dr. Little, Dr. Caton, and Dr. McVail, reported as follows:

From May 25 to November 16, 1907, the number of copies of the British Pharmacopœia (1893) sold by the publishers was 507. The total number of copies sold in the year beginning November 17, 1906, was 1,032. Up to the present time 39,181 copies of the Pharmacopœia and 4,461 copies of the Indian and Colonial Addendum have been sold. The stock of the Pharmacopœia remaining on hand now consists of 850 copies, with 1,923 copies of the Addendum. It will thus be necessary, in the course of next year, to order the printing of a further impression of the Pharmacopœia. The committee recommend that the President be authorised to give directions accordingly.

The fourth edition of the Pharmacopœia Helvetica, issued August 1907, has been received by the committee. It adopts generally the conclusions with regard to potent drugs and preparations which formed the subject of the recent international agreement. Seven national Pharmacopœias, issued since 1904, have now been brought into harmony with that important convention.

The Committee of Reference in Pharmacy have presented an interim report on the revision of certain monographs of the British Pharmacopœia (1898), and their suggestions are still under the consideration of the committee. A special assistant has been appointed to carry out the pharmaceutical investigations which are required with reference to these and other proposals. The Committee of Reference is, moreover, engaged in obtaining statistics as to the frequency with which particular medicines, official and non-official, are actually prescribed in the United Kingdom. For this purpose they have procured analyses of upwards of 43,000 prescriptions, dispensed in all parts of the country. The information thence derived cannot fail to be of service in connection with the approaching revision of the Pharmacopœia.

Sir John Moore has presented to the Council, on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, two interesting copies of the Pharmacopœia of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians. One is the Latin edition of 1826, and the other the English edition prepared under the presidency of Dr. William Stokes in 1850. The volumes have been placed in the Pharmacopœia Committee's library. The committee suggest that the thanks of the Council should be conveyed to the College for the gift.

Dr. Norman Moore, who brought up the report, simply referred to the number of copies sold which necessitated a further impression, and to the gift by Sir J. Moore.—Professor Saundby asked how soon the new Pharmacopœia will be ready, suggesting it is a pity to print more of an edition that is ten years old.—The President said it was inexpedient to give information to the public. The committee have the matter actively in hand, but much remains to be done before they see the end.

L.A.H.

With reference to the reports from the Examination Committee on the Final examinations of the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, Sir Adye Curran protested warmly against the repeated inspections; they are a perpetual censure and scare away the students, he said.—Mr. Morris saw no reason why the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, should be made the single exception of perpetual examinations.—Sir C. Nixon, however, declared that they could not by a single motion disturb the machinery which has been in force from the first.—After the opinion of the Council's legal adviser had been asked, the President advised that the matter be deferred till they "knew where they were," and an amendment was accordingly carried that the question of the duties of the assistant examiner be referred to the Examination Committee.

MEDICAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.

Dr. Mackay brought up a report from the Education Committee recommending (1) that the new Intermediate certificate of the Scotch Education Department be accepted, provided that it includes all the subjects required; (2) that as regards the school certificate of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, the restriction that all the subjects must be passed at one time should be removed.—The report was adopted.

Mr. Henry Morris was appointed Treasurer of the Council in the place of Dr. Pye-Smith, resigned.

Business Changes.

MR. T. SHARP has opened the Victoria Pharmacy at Horley, Surrey.

TAYLORS' DRUG-STORES are opening a branch in North Bridge Street, Monkwearmouth.

MESSRS. FISHER & BOULD have purchased the business of the Clown Drug Co., at Clown, Chesterfield.

SHARP'S DRUG-STORES, LTD., 49 Edward Street, Brighton, are opening a branch at 24 Coombe Road, Brighton.

MR. R. WHITE, chemist, formerly in business in Sunderland, is opening new premises in Stoney Lane, Southwick.

MR. SYDNEY M. BOSTOCK, chemist and druggist, is to take charge of the sub-post-office in Bull Ring, Northwich, on and after December 20.

MESSRS. BLACK & Co., chemists and opticians, of 81 James Street, Brighton, are opening an optical branch in London Road, Brighton.

MR. W. J. DAVIES, chemist and druggist, late of Church Street, Brighton, has purchased Mr. F. W. Sadler's branch business at Bletchington Road, Hove.

MR. R. B. BETTY, pharmaceutical chemist, has installed a telephone in his pharmacy at 1 Park Street, Gloucester Gate. The number is 240 P.O. Hampstead.

MR. A. E. MULLINGER, chemist and druggist, has taken over the Royal Crescent Drug-stores at 1 St. Ann's Road, Notting Hill, W., formerly carried on by Mr. F. C. Burrell.

MR. J. C. YOUNG, pharmaceutical chemist, late of Leicester, has purchased from Mr. Wallis, pharmaceutical chemist, the business at 51 High Road, Stamford Hill, N.

MR. CHADWICK, formerly head dispenser to Colchester Hospital, and recently in business at Rugby, has opened the Pharmacy Stores at Severn Road, Clarence Park, Weston-super-Mare.

MR. F. JONES, of 2 Shoreham Road, Hove, and Mr. W. A. Low, chemist and druggist, of Portslade-by-Sea, have opened a wholesale warehouse at 2 Windsor Street, Brighton, as Jones & Co., wholesale druggists.

Commercial Notes.

Duty-free Synthetic Camphor.

In a decision by Judge Platt, the United States Court on November 26 affirmed the action of the Board of General Appraisers in according free entry to synthetic camphor. Artificial camphor had not become an article of commercial utility when the Dingley Tariff was drawn up in 1897, and hence the present controversy. It was maintained by the Government that the synthetic production should be assessed as "refined" camphor, with duty at the rate of 6 cents per lb. On the other hand, Schering and Glatz, of New York, the importers in the test case, alleged that the commodity is entitled to the benefits of free entry as "crude" camphor. Judge Platt says, "The Government acquiesced in a decision of the Board of Appraisers in 1902, which classified an importation of natural camphor from Formosa as crude, and a like product has been coming in since free. That merchandise was in a pretty fair condition of purity, with a high melting and boiling point, and quite clean-looking. It would be unfair to levy tribute on such artificial camphor as that in issue and permit such a product as the improved Formosa to come in free." The synthetic-camphor duty has been before the Government authorities since March 1906. The various stages of the matter will be found in our issues of February 3, 1906, p. 277; March 10, 1906, p. 402; and January 19, 1907, p. 99.

Convention in German Pharmaceutical Products.

At the general meeting of the J. D. Riedel Co., held in Berlin on November 26, the chairman announced that a convention had been concluded with a number of important firms who manufacture pharmaceutical products, in order to avoid a competition which would have been prejudicial to the interests of the company. An understanding has been come to with regard to the prices of a great many products, and with reference also to trade questions, scientific and laboratory work, patent and trade-mark protection, representation abroad, mutual profits, and the settlement of disputes by means of arbitration. The details are being kept secret, but it is maintained that this convention will place the manufacture of pharmaceutical products on a firmer and more permanent basis.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., December 5.

BUSINESS shows a slight improvement this week in certain directions, and the tone is somewhat more cheerful; but many articles, although not quotably lower, have an easy undertone. Actual price alterations, with few exceptions, are without special importance. They include an advance in English and German refined camphor, owing to the dearer market for China crude on spot and for arrival. All the citrates have been reduced by 1*d.* per lb., and a large reduction was announced in santonin to-day. Quinine is again the turn easier, leading factors in the market pointing to a reduction in the bark unit at Amsterdam next week, when an unprecedented quantity will be offered. Glycerophosphates are higher. Among drugs, Norwegian cod-liver oil remains flat, the market, it is said, having been partially affected by the failure announced last week. Cascara sagrada has been more inquired for on spot. Full prices have been paid for honey, and the stocks are by no means large. Senega continues easy. Lemon oil is very scarce on spot, but the demand is extremely small. Aniseed oil is easier. Other alterations include a decline in arsenic, red-lead, and terebene. Vanilla at auction was lower, but in good demand. The principal changes of the week are as follows:

Higher	Easier	Lower
Apricot-kernel oil	Aniseed oil	Aloes (Cape)
Camphor (Eng. and Germ. ref.)	Cardamoms	Arsenic
Cassia oil (spot)	Chiretta	Calumba
Copaiba oil	Ipecac.	Ferri ammon. cit.
Cubeb oil	Lime oil	Pepper
Glycerophosphates	Quinine (sec. hands)	Potash citrate
	Sarsaparilla (grey)	Red lead
		Resin
		Santonin
		Sodium citrate
		Terebene
		Vanilla

Cablegram.

NEW YORK, December 5:—Business in drugs is slow. Opium is nominal at \$5.50. Cascara sagrada is lower at 9*c.* Refined camphor is hardening at 68*c.* per lb. in bulk. Hydrastis (golden seal) is steady at \$1.90, and peppermint oil is lower at \$1.60 per lb. in tins.

London Markets.

ANISEED.—Good new crop Russian is offering at 23*s.* per cwt. on the spot, and Spanish at 35*s.* per cwt. c.i.f. terms.

ANTIMONY.—English regulus is about steady at from 32*l.* 10*s.* to 34*l.* 10*s.* per ton as to brand, and for Japanese crude 30*s.* to 32*s.* 6*d.* spot.

ARSENIC is cheaper at from 26*s.* to 23*s.* per cwt. for best white powder, according to quantity.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—Chinese crude continues firm on the spot, with sellers at 195*s.*, and for November-December shipment 195*s.* c.i.f. is quoted.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—The English refiners have advanced their prices by 2*d.* per lb. to 2*s.* 11*d.* for bells, and 2*s.* 10½*d.* for 1-cwt lots and upwards. Flowers are now 2*s.* 10*d.* and 2*s.* 9½*d.* for 1-cwt. lots and upwards, with tablets at proportionately higher prices. German refiners

have also advanced their prices by 2*d.* per lb. to 2*s.* 8*d.* for bells in ton lots. Japanese refined for December-January delivery is quoted 2*s.* 5½*d.* c.i.f., and on the spot 1-oz. tablets are offered at 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 7*d.* In auction 4 cases Japanese refined 1-oz. tablets were offered, of which one sold at 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb. net, no allowance, and for the remainder a bid of 2*s.* 5*d.* is to be submitted.

CANARY-SEED is steady, but transactions are small. The quotation is nominal at 36*s.* to 37*s.* per quarter for any good useful seed.

CARAWAY-SEED is quiet, but the price is unchanged at 37*s.* to 38*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for ordinary to fair Dutch on the spot.

CINCHONA.—As a result of the heavy shipments of bark from Java, the large quantities to be offered next week, and the present position of the financial markets the world over, it is quite anticipated that the unit at the Amsterdam auction next week will be lower. The 11,449 bales and 491 cases to be offered weigh 1,076,184 kilos., and contain 65,863 kilos. of quinine sulphate. The average of the manufacturing bark is 6.51 per cent. quinine sulphate, as compared with 6.32 per cent. in November and 6.14 per cent. in September. The above quantity is divided into 947,254 kilos. manufacturing bark and 128,930 kilos. pharmaceutical bark, containing respectively 61,639 kilos. and 4,224 kilos. of quinine sulphate. This quantity is the largest that has been offered at any auction, and, as will be seen, contains 65 tons of quinine "in the bark." In addition 72 packages Java and 24 packages Ceylon coca leaves will be offered, weighing respectively 3,294 kilos. and 2,235 kilos. The shipments from Java during November amounted to 171,600 Amst. lb., against 1,489,000 Amst. lb. in 1906, 1,273,000 Amst. lb. in 1905, and 1,258,000 Amst. lb. in 1904. The total shipments during the first eleven months of the year amount to 16,022,000 Amst. lb., against 12,952,000 Amst. lb. last year, 14,541,000 Amst. lb. in 1905, and 13,170,000 Amst. lb. in 1904.

COCOA BUTTER.—At auction at Amsterdam 70 tons van Houtens sold at 92.85 cents, and 27½ tons various brands partly sold at 88.50*c.*

CORIANDER-SEED is in fair demand, with sales of retail lots at 9*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., and for arrival at 8*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. terms.

CUMIN-SEED sells slowly at 45*s.* per cwt. for fair Morocco. For sifted quality 48*s.* is required, and for common 42*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

FENUGREEK-SEED.—The demand is slow, and quotations differ according to holder's ideas; while some are asking 11*s.*, others indicate 10*s.* as the price they would accept.

FERRI ET AMMON. CIT. has been reduced 1*d.* per lb. to 1*s.* 9*d.*, in 28-lb. or 56-lb. lots.

GLYCEROPHOSPHATES.—The makers have advanced their prices by about 8*d.* per lb., the price of the *Calcium* now being 3*s.* 7*d.*, *Potassium* (50 per cent.) 2*s.* 10*d.*, and *Sodium* (50 per cent.) 2*s.* 10*d.* per lb.

LINSEED.—Fine qualities being scarce, the values of these are maintained at 50*s.* to 52*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.

OIL, APRICOT KERNEL.—The scarcity of raw material has led to a further advance, English pressers quoting 1*s.* 4*d.* per lb. net, and bleached at 1*s.* 6*d.* net in 1-cwt. quantities.

OIL, ANISEED, STAR, is slightly weaker, with sales of the "Red Ship" brand at 5*s.* and ordinary brands at 4*s.* 11*d.*, and for December-January shipment a good business has been done in the "Red Ship" brand at 4*s.* 5*d.* c.i.f. In auction 5 cases "Red Ship" were offered, of which 2 had been sold privately, 5*s.* being asked for the remainder.

OIL, CASSIA.—Small sales of 80 to 85 per cent. c.a. have been made at 6*s.* 9*d.*, but 7*s.* is now asked owing to great scarcity; 75 to 80 per cent. has been sold at 6*s.* 5*d.*, and the 70 to 75 per cent. does not appear to be available. To come forward, prices are easier at 5*s.* 10½*d.* for 80 per cent. to 85 per cent., and at 5*s.* 8½*d.* for 75 per cent. to 80 per cent.

OIL, CASTOR.—Calcutta firsts are steady at 3½*d.* to 4*d.*, and seconds at 3¼*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb. spot.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Several agents continue to quote 63*s.* per barrel, c.i.f. terms, for finest Lofoten oil, but in other quarters from 65*s.* to 66*s.* is quoted, the feeling being that

the situation has improved, and that these low prices are not justified.

OIL, CUBEB, has advanced a further 3d. per lb. to 5s. 6d.

OIL, SANDALWOOD.—Genuine English distilled from East Indian wood is offered at 12s. 3d. per lb. In auction 8 tins of Australian were bought in at 7s. per lb.

OPIMUM.—Our Smyrna correspondent writes as follows : SMYRNA, November 23.—In spite of the 12 cases extra Karahissar (Dutch inspection) which have changed hands this week at 211 pesetas, 62.50f., or 22s. 5d., c.i.f. European ports, there has been in reality no business done, for these were sold by the same dealer to the buyer who had already bought the 21 cases last week. Of these 33 cases, only 600 kilos. have been accepted on inspection, and it would seem that this quantity has been considered sufficient, as there has been no further demand. The arrivals amount to 1,274 cases, as compared with 2,958 cases last year on the same date. The officials have returned from their rounds in the producing districts, and have made a very unfavourable report. The scarcity of rain is still felt, so that the yield from the autumn sowings will be extremely small.

POTASH, CITRATE, is 1d. per lb. lower at 1s. 10d. per lb.

QUININE is the turn easier in some quarters, it being possible to buy the usual brands of German sulphate at 7½d., and "outside" makes at 7½d. The approaching end of the year has also had a weakening influence in certain directions, and here and there dealers are anxious to dispose of their holdings. The quantity of "quinine in the bark" to be offered next week at Amsterdam (65 tons) exceeds all previous records.

RED-LEAD has declined a further 10s., English now offering at 19l. 5s. ex ship, or 19l. 7s. 6d. ex wharf. Foreign is also cheaper at 18l. 10s. English white-lead is unchanged at 21l., and foreign at 19l. 10s.

SANTONIN.—A drastic reduction has taken place just as we go to press, the makers now quoting minimum lots of 100 kilos. crystals at 40m. per kilo. (say, 20s. per lb.) up to 44m. per kilo. being quoted for quantities below 10 kilos. These prices are net, and for contracts for delivery within three months. If prices are reduced within that period the remainder of the deliveries are invoiced at the reduced price so long as the quotations are below the original price agreed upon. Most buyers anticipated this reduction, for reasons already stated in this journal.

SODIUM CITRATE is 1d. lower at 2s. 1d. per lb.

SULPHUR.—H.M. Consul at Palermo reports that through the ex-Minister for Finance, Signor Luzatti, fresh negotiations with the Union Sulphur Co., of Louisiana, have been initiated in order to arrive at an understanding by means of which competition between United States and Sicilian sulphur will be avoided. Mr. Churchill adds that the Director-General of the Sicilian Consorzio has proceeded to Rome for the purposes of these negotiations. Nothing has yet transpired in regard to these negotiations, but the probability of coming to terms has caused the Consorzio to advance prices again about 3s. per ton, after they had been reduced about a fortnight previous. However, sales to the U.S.A. have been made at the reduced values, and by these means the Consorzio hope to induce concessions from Mr. Frasch. No doubt a substantial increase in prices would be the first and immediate result of any agreement, and American buyers do not seem to be alive to the exceptionally favourable position in which they are placed by the present price-war. The Consorzio still offers to sell to them 16s. to 17s. under market value even for forward delivery up to August 1908.

TEREBENE has been reduced 2d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. in quantity.

TURMERIC.—Bengal finger is quoted 20s. on spot, and several hundred bags have been sold for December steamer at 16s. 6d. c.i.f. Madras is steady at from 20s. to 23s., and new crop Cochín split bulbs have realised 10s. 3d. c.i.f.

VANILLA.—An auction of Seychelles vanilla commenced on Wednesday, and, owing to the heavy supplies offered (over 2,180 tins of new crop), they were not concluded until late to-day. Prices were lower, medium grades declining 2s. 6d., long lengths 1s. 6d., and foxy and split 1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.

WAX, JAPAN.—Retail sales have been made at 58s. spot for good pale square.

London Drug-auctions.

The next drug-sales take place on January 16, 1908. Evidence of the slow tone in business was apparent at the last auctions of the year to-day, when the bulk of the goods was bought in and where business was effected the tendency of values was mostly in buyers' favour. This was especially the case with cascara sagrada, which declined about 5s. in auction. Cape aloes only partly sold, and at a reduction of about 2s. Buchu was neglected, but steady, and for Sumatra benzoin full prices were paid. Chiretta is plentiful, but neglected. Cardamoms dragged considerably, and prices were again easier. Cascarilla was firmly held, and private sales are being made. Calumba declined considerably, but for Ceylon coca-leaves the rates paid were steady. Dragon's-blood was unaltered, no fine being offered. Gamboge is steady, and for ipecacuanha, although no business was done, about 1d. easier prices would be accepted. Myrrh is neglected. Rhubarb is in slow demand at easy prices, and for grey sarsaparilla values were the turn easier, as was also the case with Tinnevely senna. Beeswax of all kinds was neglected, large strings being bought in. Jamaica was steady, however.

* * Pressure on our space prevents the publication of our usual table of goods "Offered and Sold."

Mr. Lescher Retires.

To-day being the last occasion on which Mr. Harwood Lescher will attend the drug sales on behalf of his firm—Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd.—Mr. Andrew Devitt, of Lewis & Peat, before finishing his catalogue alluded to this fact, stating that the trade could not allow such an opportunity to pass without recording its sense of regret at losing so well-known and respected a member of the drug trade. Although Mr. Lescher is retiring in the full enjoyment of his health and energy, his many other associations, said Mr. Devitt, would no doubt call him frequently to the City. (Hear, hear.) He believed he expressed the wish of the whole of the drug trade in asking them to join him in wishing Mr. Lescher long life, happiness, and a continuance of good health in which to enjoy his well-merited retirement. Mr. Arnold Baiss (speaking for the Drug Club) seconded, fully endorsing Mr. Devitt's remarks, and, the resolution being carried unanimously, Mr. Lescher, in a feeling reply, regretted parting from so many old friends. The feeling of pride, he said, was one uppermost in his heart, because he had never recollected such an experience before, and it was a great testimony to their friendship. He had had a long experience in the drug trade, and he did not think there were many present who could look back to the "taking prices down," as he could, at old Garraway's Coffee-house in Cornhill, when Mr. Brookes was selling opium or Mr. Jenkin selling his drugs. Mr. Lescher referred to the friendly relations that had always existed between the drug brokers and himself. Indeed, he did not recollect a single instance in which there had been a serious dispute; but, as he added in a playful aside, "that was because I always had my own way." He was not afraid for the future of the drug trade, nor for the City and the Port of London, so long as they continued to do as in the past—i.e., "act honestly, act fairly, and work hard." He thanked them one and all for the kind testimony of their feelings towards him. (Applause.)

ALBUMEN.—Five packages of egg in pale powder guaranteed free from admixture were held for 2s. 9d. per lb.

ALOEES, CAPE, partly sold at a decline of about 2s., per cwt. Twenty-three cases offered on usual 20-per-cent. rates, of which 6 were disposed of at 32s. for fair bright hard, 30s. 6d. for fair seconds slightly drossy, and 29s. 6d. for dull seconds; the fine bright hard firsts of this parcel was limited at 35s. per cwt. A further 12 cases sold at 30s. 6d. to 31s. for fair bright hard, 29s. 6d. for dull seconds, and 28s. for very drossy.

ANISEED.—Fair Russian partly sold at 23s.

ANNATTO-SEED.—Fair Ceylon was obtainable at 2¼d., and ordinary at 2¼d. per lb.

ARAROEIA containing 54 per cent. chrysophanic acid according to Parry's analysis was bought in at 3s. 6d. per lb.

ARECA.—Scarce. Twenty bags of bold but partly unhusked were held for 20s.

BENZOIN.—Steady. Good almondy Sumatra seconds sold at 7l. 17s. 6d., good fair almondy seconds at 7l., and fair at 6l. 15s. per cwt. A case of broken thirds realised 5l. 5s. per cwt. subject. Five cases of glassy Palembang sold at 42s. 6d., being steady.

BUCHU.—Slow. Five bales of mostly good green round

leaves were held at 1s. per lb., there were no bids. A bale of yellow "ovals" realised 7½d.

CALUMBA.—Lower. A parcel of 30 bags good bright yellow washed hand-picked sold without reserve at 27s. 6d. to 28s. 6d. per cwt., and fair rather stemmy natural sorts were bought in at 11s.

CANELLA ALBA.—Five bales fair bright mostly pale quill were limited at 65s.

CARDAMOMS met with a dragging sale and prices were easier, the following rates being paid: Ceylon-Mysore bold medium palish to pale, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.; medium palish, 1s. 5d.; small and medium palish to pale, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.; small palish, 1s. 1d.; brown and split, 1s. 2d. Extra bold pale split, 1s. 6d.; medium bold split, 1s. 4d.; small split, 1s. 2d.; seed, 1s. 8d. Decorticated seed was limited at from 1s. 11d. to 2s., the latter being for Indian.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The slump in this drug was a feature of the sale, 274 bags imported at the end of November 1906 realising from 31s. 6d. to 35s. without reserve, gross for net, no discount. The parcel in question was much below average quality, being mostly coarse, corky, and dark bark; 36 bags of fair bright thinner bark, imported on April 24, 1906, also sold under similar conditions at 36s. A further 20 bags of 1906 crop sold at 40s. 6d., without allowances or discount, gross for net. The above are said to be the last of these cheap parcels. Privately there has been rather more demand on the spot, the lowest price being 42s. 6d. per cwt.

CHIRETTA.—A large quantity was offered, and mostly bought in at from 3½d. to 4d. per lb.

COCA-LEAVES.—Steady. Eight cases fair greenish Ceylon sold at 7½d., 5 cases ordinary dullish sold at 4½d., and sea-damaged at 3d. per lb.

COLOCYNTH.—Fair Turkey pulp was obtainable at 1s. 6d., and a case of damaged realised 3½d.

CUBEBS.—For fair partly bluish berries 65s. is asked.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Fair bright seedy lump partly false-packed sold at 7l. 17s. 6d. per cwt. subject for five cases.

ERGOT.—Five bags of slightly weevilly Russian were held at 1s. 0½d., and for 6 bags weevilly Spanish 1s. 3d. was wanted.

EUPHORBUM.—Six serons of sea-damaged Morocco pickings sold at 6s. per cwt.

GAMBOGE.—A case of Siam pipe sold at 17l. per cwt. for fair, part rough blocky and false packed.

GUM ARABIC.—Five bags of medium to bold frosted and slightly woody Australian sorts sold at 45s. per cwt.

HONEY.—Jamaica at auction was in small supply, 10 barrels of brown set sugary realising 22s. to 22s. 6d., and 5 barrels of fermented yellow 17s. 6d. per cwt. Privately full prices continue to be paid, and stocks of all descriptions are becoming small. Sales of Californian in cases have been made in Liverpool at 45s. per cwt.

IPECACUANHA was extremely slow of sale, and about 1d. easier all round. Only two bales of Minas were disposed of at 4s. 10d. per lb. for slightly sea-damaged. Good sound was held for 5s. 8d. to 5s. 9d., according to holder. Rio (Matto Grosso) sold at 5s. 6d. for one bale of fair, while for Cartagena 5s. was wanted.

KOLA.—Good West Indian partly washed sold at 2½d. to 2¾d., and ordinary at 1½d.

LIME-JUICE.—A parcel of 11 packages raw West Indian was limited all round at 1s. 3d. per gal. Two hogshead of raw Dominican sold at 1s. per gal. Privately good raw Jamaica is quoted 1s. 5d. and fair at 1s. 3d. A large quantity has changed hands this week.

OIL, CLOVE.—B.P. oil containing 83 to 85 per cent. eugenol was held at 3s. 8d. per lb.

OIL, EUCALYPTUS.—For 8 cases of commercial Australian with tins more or less rusty and part ullaged 1s. 0½d. per lb. was paid, while for globulus oil containing 58 to 60 per cent. of cineol 1s. 2½d. was wanted.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—Thirty cases from the Heawood Estate, Perak, Straits Settlements, containing 75-per-cent. cineol, were bought in at 4d. per oz., and further parcels of Travancore were passed at varying prices, there being no bids.

OIL, LIME.—Four cases West Indian distilled realised 1s. 9d. per lb., subject to sellers' approval, and a further

two cases were taken at 1s. 9½d., no allowance for draft or tret.

OIL OF CINNAMON.—For Ceylon bark oil the buying-in price was 1s. per oz., and for Ceylon leaf 2¾d. per oz. was wanted.

OIL, PATCHOULI.—Ten cases Singapore "Tiger" brand were bought in at 7d. per oz.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—In auction, 5 cases of *Todd's* crystal white sold without reserve at 8s. per lb., and 10 cases Japanese (Suzuki) were bought in at 4s. 8d., as were 2 cases Wayne County (A. Chiris brand with Parry's analysis) at 7s. 3d., the limit being 6s. 9d. Privately Japanese is quiet at from 4s. 9d. to 4s. 10½d. for Kobayashi on spot, and at 4s. 3d. c.i.f. for arrival.

PUREE.—For a case of damp Bombay yellow 8s. was wanted.

RHUBARB sold at easy prices. A case of bold flat Canton, with three-quarters pinky fracture and one-quarter grey and dark, sold at 1s. 9d., and for a case of ditto with less preferable fracture and rather roughly trimmed, 1s. 6d. was paid. Various bids are to be submitted, including one of 1s. 5d. for Canton pickings.

SARSAPARILLA.—Genuine grey Jamaica, of which 15 bales offered, sold at 1s. 8d. per lb. for good fibrous but partly coarse, and for 3 bales of partly black mixed 1s. 6d. was paid, being a shade easier. Of 15 bales Guayaquil character from Ecuador, 4 sold at 11d. per lb., the remainder being held for this figure. A bale of native Jamaica was bought in at 1s. for common mixed grey and red, 9d. being refused.

SENNA.—Tinnevely was slow of sale and easier, there being few orders about. The better qualities were mostly bought in. Good green leaf sold at 4d.; fair to good medium greenish, 2½d. to 3d.; and small common specky to middling, 1½d. to 2d. Pods sold at 1¾d., the bulk being held for 2d. Ten bales Alexandrian leaf, slightly broken, sold without reserve at 3½d., and various sales of damaged siftings and pods were also made under similar conditions. Good sound pale pods were bought in at 10d., a penny less being acceptable.

SQUILL.—Twenty-five bags ordinary brown sold without reserve at 2½d., and a further 10 bags also without reserve realised 1½d. for common.

TAMARINDS.—Fair black Calcutta were bought in at 13s. per cwt.

WAX, BEES', was extremely slow of sale, 52 packages Egyptian were bought in at from 6l. 15s. to 7l., and 130 packages Zanzibar at from 6l. 10s. to 6l. 15s.; 15 packages Madagascar sold at 6l. 10s., subject for dark; fair block was bought in at 7l. Jamaica sold at steady rates, 7l. 15s. being paid for 5 barrels good pale yellow and brown, and a further 3 casks of yellow and brown Jamaica were bought in at 8l., and for 169 packages of very broken drossy Abyssinian ball the buying-price was 5l. 12s. 6d. Three bags of grey and yellow Australian realised 7l. 10s. per cwt.

Heavy Chemicals.

Although business in the heavy chemical market is on the quiet side it cannot be described as being in an unsatisfactory state, since both home and export orders are very fair for the season of the year. The tone of values is firm, and there are no alterations of material moment.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—This market is very quiet and orders for prompt delivery are scarce, while business on forward account is quite neglected. Prices are perhaps not quite so firm, but in view of the fact that stocks are nowhere over-abundant any important decline in values is hardly to be expected. Present nearest figures: Beckton, this year's delivery, 12l. 5s., 1908 12l. 7s. 6d., Beckton terms 11l. 16s. 3d. to 11l. 17s. 6d., London 11l. 16s. 3d., Leith 12l. 5s. for this year and 12l. 7s. 6d. for next. Hull 11l. 17s. 6d. to 12l.

ALUMINA-PRODUCTS.—General demand in this branch has not been quite so heavy as regards miscellaneous business, but contract deliveries are being taken out fairly well. Prices show no tendency towards any decline since costs of manufacture are much heavier than they were, and again ruling prices have for a long time been very low. As regards forward practically all important contracts have now been completed, and generally at advanced figures as compared with this year. Present quotations are crystal alum lump 4l. 17s. 6d. to 5l. 5l., lump in tierces 5l. 2s. 6d. to 5l. 10s., and ground in bags 5l. 7s. 6d. to 5l. 15s. per ton. Sulphate of alumina, purest

qualities and practically free of iron, ordinary strength, 47. 12s. 6d. to 57. 2s. 6d. per ton in usual casks, with unchanged allowances for bags and loose slabs and customary extras for similar quality in higher concentrations. Aluminous cake 50s. to 55s. per ton, and aluminio-ferrie 50s. to 60s. per ton, in accordance with quality, quantity, and condition. Hydrate of alumina high strength Al_2O_3 and purest quality, 127. 10s. to 137. 10s. per ton in large casks. Special pulp hydrate of alumina 15s. to 17s. 6d. per cwt. Special pulp quality, dried and in lumps, 37s. 6d. to 40s. per cwt, and ground 38s. to 40s. 6d. per cwt. Aluminate of soda, purest quality and high strength Al_2O_3 , 35s. to 37s. 6d. per cwt., second quality 12s. to 13s. per cwt. Carbonate of alumina 35s. to 37s. 6d. per cwt.

American Drug Market.

New York, November 26.

The effects of the commercial depression are still reflected in the drug-trade. Business is entirely of a jobbing description. Buyers not only operate on a strictly conservative scale, but also, in some instances, seek to cancel forward contracts. Opium is lower, so also are menthol, lobelia, morphine, and clove oil. Hydrastis is comparatively steady. Peppermint oil and cascara have not altered.

ALOES.—Curaçao in boxes has been well taken, and the market is steady, with prices ranging from 10c. to 10½c. as formerly. Less attention has been accorded the Cape variety, and quotations are fractionally lower at 8½c. to 9c. Aloin is firm.

ANISEED OIL has declined to \$1.25 for U.S.P. variety, with \$1.20 acceptable for oil equally pure but, unfortunately, optically dextrogyrate, and therefore under official ban.

CANADA BALSAM.—Under the influences previously reported the market continues firm. \$3.75 to \$4 per gal. is asked for goods of unquestioned character, and \$3.50 to \$3.60 for other descriptions. Oregon balsam is also tending firmer in sympathy with the more desirable product; \$1.90 to \$2.10 has been paid, according to quantity and style of packing.

CASCARA.—The spot quotations, 9½c. to 10c., are still in force, but shading of prices is said to be necessary in order to secure a share of what little business is doing. Pending the distribution of the stock on hand, local dealers are not interesting themselves in coast bark (see cable).

CLOVE OIL.—Buds have been rather plentiful of late, and further shipments coming on an easy market dragged down the price of oil. 82½c. to 87½c. is now acceptable, the inside figure for cans.

COPAIBA is in rather poor demand meantime, but the slackened importation keeps values balanced at 45c. to 55c. for Central and South America. Maracaiibo is offered at 47½c.

HYDRASTIS.—Despite the lack of business, values have not altered to any considerable extent, and are fairly represented by the former quotations of \$1.95 to \$2. On spot \$1.90 is reported possible for cash, and the same figure is mentioned for large parcels in the country.

LOBELIA is plentiful and lower at 8½c. to 10c.

MENTHOL.—The market is flat, and \$2 is now openly quoted.

OPIMUM is dull, and lower again at \$5.75. In the absence of important demand, this quotation is merely nominal, and the idea prevails that cases can be obtained at \$5.50. The local stock is well concentrated in strong hands, and holders are not inclined to compete. Since the downward trend is clearly due to the sluggish movement, it is more than likely that even a partial resumption of former activity would immediately enhance prices.

PEPPERMINT OIL (AMERICAN).—The spot jobbing market is lifeless. Prices are nominally unaltered at \$1.65 to \$1.80, but owing to the lack of consuming interest the easier tendency is becoming more pronounced. At primary sources the position has not visibly altered during the week. The quotation of \$1.65 stands. The course of prices in the immediate future depends largely on the ability of Western dealers to hang on to their stocks until financial conditions relax.

SENEGA is unusually quiet for the season, and prices are easy at \$5.0 to \$5.2.

THYMOL is easier. \$1.95 to \$2.10 is the general range.

TOLU BALSAM has been the subject of considerable inquiry, and prices are steady at 23c. to 26c. as to quantity and seller.

Camphor Oil.

Sir A. Hosie, Acting Commercial Attaché to H.M. Legation at Peking, in a report on a visit to the Southern Ports of China, states that the distillation of camphor oil at Foochow was started by Japanese, who own several distilleries, but the Chinese have now as many as seventeen, and others are in process of construction. They are very primitive establishments, each containing a couple of stills, and there appears to be much waste of time and labour due to the crude system employed. Several British merchants at Foochow informed the Attaché that, owing to frequent fluctuations in the value of camphor, they preferred to take no part in the trade. Most of the Foochow output is in the hands of Parsee merchants in Hong-Kong, by whom it is exported to India.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. Publication of letters does not imply our agreement with the arguments or approval of the statements therein. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects presumably of interest to our readers generally. Letters received after the early posts on Wednesday cannot as a rule be dealt with in the current week's issue.

BUSINESS INFORMATION.—We have very full records of the makers or agents for articles and products connected with the chemical and drug trades, and supply information respecting them by post to inquirers. Inquiries regarding any articles which cannot be traced in this manner are inserted under "Information Wanted."

Chemicals for Japan.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this office of October 4 last, I am directed by Secretary Sir Edward Grey to inform you that a despatch has been received from his Majesty's Ambassador at Tokio regarding the extension to December 31, 1908, of the time within which chemicals, etc., manufactured under the old Japanese Pharmacopœia may be sold.

Sir C. MacDonald reports that up to December 31, 1908, chemicals and drugs manufactured in accordance with the old Pharmacopœia may not only be sold, but imported and stored. As, however, such articles may not be sold after that date, it will be useless to import and store them for some time beforehand.

The stamps of the Sanitary Laboratory will not be affixed to such drugs after June 30, 1908, and, as there is a possibility of a press of applications at the last moment, importers should leave themselves an ample margin of time. There is also another point to be borne in mind—the stamps affixed to drugs and chemicals manufactured under the old and new Pharmacopœias are slightly different, so that unless there is a marked difference in price, goods stamped as manufactured under the old Pharmacopœia are likely to suffer in competition.

Sir C. MacDonald has also sent further copies of the new Pharmacopœia in which certain errata have been corrected, together with a list of these errata. They will shortly be open to public inspection at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73 Basinghall Street, E.C.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Foreign Office,

December 2, 1907.

F. A. CAMPBELL.

The New By-laws.

SIR,—We are not surprised that the Privy Council has "allowed" the new by-laws. That honourable body is like a man who has gone so far on the wrong road that it is an easy thing for him to go a little farther. All the same, it might have been better advised. The new by-laws may work out fairly well in practice; it all depends on the spirit and manner in which they are applied.

Not much fault can be found with the recent remarks of the President, but it is hardly correct to represent the two Boards of Examiners as unable to come to an agreement. There are regulations which have passed both Boards a good while ago, but have never yet received the assent of the Council. It is quite well known that the successful method of coming to one mind on any matter is for a small deputation from each Board to meet together and have a talk; yet that simple process has been in recent times blocked and obstructed by the wisdom of Bloomsbury Square. The President's argument, that if the Council are competent to appoint examiners they are also competent to make regulations for them, is a most transparent fallacy. One might as well say that because a corporation appoints a medical officer and an analyst, it is competent to instruct these officers in regard to their special duties and work.

Yours very truly,

Edinburgh, December 2.

D. B. DOTT.

Mr. J. R. Young's Speech at Sheffield.

The following letter has been addressed to Mr. Young, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain:

SIR,—I am amazed to read in the "Pharmaceutical Journal" of 30th ult. that you have been discussing the relationships of the Board of Examiners for England and Wales and the Board of Examiners for Scotland—or, to use your designation, the "Northern and Southern Boards." It does not appear to me that an after-dinner speech in a provincial town is a suitable occasion on which to discuss matters which are essentially of a private character. Had you confined yourself to generalities allowance could be made for the effects of the hospitality of the people of Sheffield. To be specific and state that there is or has been discord between the two Boards is doubtful taste—even if the statement were true. You are reported as having said that "What existed at present was that the two Boards had to be brought together and had to be unanimous in any schedule which might mean the alteration of a certain syllabus concerning any examination. In experience they had found that it was impossible to get the Northern and Southern Boards to agree in these matters and they were *absolutely at a deadlock*."

Now, Sir, I take leave to challenge you to specify a single instance during the last fifteen years when such a deadlock occurred in regard to a "syllabus concerning any examination." I have been a member of the Northern Board for several terms during those years, and I am not aware of one. The relations between the two Boards have always been cordial and business-like. What earthly reason could there be for any other? I have attended officially the examinations in London, and I put on record most unhesitatingly that my association with the Southern Board collectively and individually has been most agreeable.

Had you been satisfied to stop at your statement about a deadlock and let both Boards take their share of the slur, I should not have cared so much. You interject, however, the remark that "not one single objection had reached the Council from the Southern Board." It is not very clear to what this somewhat inconsequent observation applies, but it is quite obvious that it carries a reflection on the Northern Board which presumably is the obstructionist. As a member of the Northern Board, I have my self-respecting feelings, and I consider that I am justified in being angry with you for making an invidious comparison between the two Boards. I have never before in public made any reference to the relations of the two Boards to each other or to the Council. Had an irresponsible outsider from the depths of his ignorance and under the influence of profuse hospitality committed himself to such observations as you are reported to have made, they could well be ignored. When you in your official capacity make them it is a different matter. What effect do you suppose your remarks will have on the dignity and influence of the Boards in the estimation of outsiders? The Society exists as an examining body. The Boards of Examiners are the medium by which the Society carries out its function. If you, the head of the Society for the time being, cast reflections on the Boards, the Society's prestige must suffer. One more point. The report proceeds: "When they considered that five-sixths, or at any rate three-fourths, who passed the qualifying examination passed it under the London Board," etc. Even in after-dinner speeches it is well to have at least figures approximately correct. I take the passes at the two centres during 1907. The numbers are:

London	...	...	...	...	274
Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	137

You can see for yourself whether or not these figures bear out your statement. I could, moreover, point to years during the time I have been an examiner when the relative proportions were much larger in Edinburgh. But even if your statement had been correct, what does it matter? The candidates are at liberty to name the centre at which they desire to be examined.

I make this protest on behalf of myself as a member of the Northern Board, and in order that it may have the same publicity as your statements I have sent a copy to the Pharmaceutical Press.

Yours truly,

PETER BOA.

119 George Street, Edinburgh, December 3, 1907.

Mercurial Cream.

SIR,—Some confusion has arisen in regard to the composition of what is now commonly known as Lambkin's cream. Originally Colonel Lambkin, R.A.M.C. ("British Medical Journal," November 11, 1905), prescribed a basis for the cream consisting of wool-fat and paraffin. The "British Pharmaceutical Codex" has perpetuated this basis, oblivious of the fact that early this year we undertook, on behalf of Colonel Lambkin, a series of experiments for the purpose of discovering a more diffusible basis than wool-fat and vaseline. Our special research resulted

in the compounding of an entirely new medium, which we call "palmitin basis." In this there is neither wool-fat nor vaseline, and the mercurial cream compounded by us from the new basis is now alone prescribed by Colonel Lambkin and used in the Army hospitals. We have supplied it to the Army Medical Stores, the Indian Government, and we have now a further large quantity on order for the Crown Agents for the Colonies, to be shipped to Uganda for the use of Colonel Lambkin. In a communication to the "Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps," for July 1907, the Colonel deals fully with the change in the composition above referred to, and states that the following are the formulæ for the two mercurial creams, prepared by us:

Equal parts of absolute creosote and camphoric acid	Hydrargyrum pur. ...	10 grammes
	Creo-camph. ...	20 c.c.
	Palmitin basis to ...	100 c.c.
10 m equals metallic mercury 1 grain.		
Equal parts of absolute creosote and camphoric acid	Calomel ...	5 grammes
	Creo-camph. ...	20 c.c.
	Palmitin basis to ...	100 c.c.
10 m equals calomel $\frac{1}{2}$ grain.		
Melting point, 31° C.		

In view of these changes, we consider that pharmacists, as well as physicians, should appreciate the fact that "Oleum Cinereum, B.P.C." is not at all similar in composition to the mercurial cream now prescribed by Colonel Lambkin; moreover, it causes intense pain after injection because it does not diffuse into the tissues, as creams made with our palmitin basis do.

Yours faithfully,

OPPENHEIMER, SON & CO., LTD.

A. W. Ball, Director.

179 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., November 30.

Hamilton's Pills.

SIR,—There seems to be some confusion as to the correct article to dispense when Hamilton's pills are ordered. In Squire's "Companion" it states that the pills contain 5 grains pil. colocynth. et hyoscy. B.P., whereas the "British Pharmaceutical Codex" states that the pills contain 2½ grains compound extract of colocynth and 1½ grain extract of henbane. As the difference in effect would be very considerable, we should like you to point out the discrepancy to your readers, so that they may specify which formula they mean when ordering Hamilton's pills. We have communicated with the editor of the "B.P.C.," and he states that he is unable to explain the discrepancy, but the "B.P.C." is the correct formula.

Yours faithfully,

THE STANDARD TABLET & PILL CO.

Hove, December 2.

[The following extract from "Pharmaceutical Formulas," 1905, p. 745, shows how matters stand:]

DR. HAMILTON, JUN.'S, PILLS.

Ext. coloc. co. ...	3j.
Ext. hyoscyami ...	3ss.

M. et divide in pilulas xxiv.

NOTE.—Pil. coloc. et hyos., B.P., gr. v., is frequently, but erroneously, given for the above. Hamilton, sen.'s, pills are the old Edinburgh Pharmacopœia aloetic pill—viz., equal parts of soap and Socotrine aloes. "Hamilton's Pills" has been recognised by the Board of Inland Revenue as a non-dutiable title. The pill very commonly sold under this name is pil. colocynth. et hyoscyam., B.P., gr. iiij. The "B.P. Codex" places the following under the B.P. formula for pil. colocynth. et hyoscyam.:

NOTE.—Christison's pills contain 2 grains of this pill mass; Hamilton's pills contain compound extract of colocynth instead of compound colocynth pill mass and 90 grains of the mass is divided into twenty-four pills.

The "P.F." formula for Hamilton, jun.'s, pills has been given in all editions of the book, and the information is based upon personal experience and communications from Scottish pharmacists who were actually acquainted with the practice of the Hamiltons. There is no doubt of the fact that pil. coloc. et hyos. gr. v. is sold in Scotland as Hamilton's pills, and that a 3-grain pill is also sold by those who know that a milder pill was intended, but in Edinburgh the original formula by Dr. Hamilton, jun., is recognised as providing the thing, when Hamilton, sen.'s, pills are not specified.—Ed. C. & D.]

Company Legislation.

SIR,—What Lancashire thinks to-day on the subject of the President's Sheffield speech would be very interesting. I could scarcely believe my own eyes when I read the report in the *C. & D.* Some of these M.P.s must have used pretty plain language to the worthy President, but as Lancashire likes straight talk doubtless he is glad of the chance of "talking straight" to the craft. I am wondering how some of the guests at that dinner liked the plain truth that members of Parliament (as well as Lord Crewe) have decided opinions on the chemists' "highest aims," and have had quite enough "education" foisted on to them. I can recollect several letters which appeared in a contemporary drug journal about two years ago in which M.P.s were held up to ridicule because they did not at once fall down and worship the chemist and his highest aims. The insufferable conceit of these articles is well worth alluding to at this time in view of the President's sensible advice "to come down to earth and practical matters." The writer of the letters expressed himself after this fashion:

I travelled up to London the other day, and in same carriage was a member of Parliament.

I found him too ignorant to sustain a conversation on any one subject for half an hour.

The man had not read . . . (three or four erudite books were given here, one, I think, was "Roman Law," another was (or might be) Mill's "Philosophy" or Spencer).

From all of which it appears that if you only read Mill and Spencer and such-like books you will never be a member of Parliament, but you may become a qualified chemist. It is a good job for us in this country that our members of Parliament are mainly (as yet) men who have common sense, workaday, practical experience of this weary world, and that the conceited popinjay whose only experience is that of the bookworm is not to have the final settlement of the chemists' troubles, otherwise we might look for a more hopeless tangle than we are in at present. "Xrayser" doubted me quite recently when I said the chemist (by which I mean the average chemist) is full of pretence and attitudes. Yet here is the President actually saying the same thing in much the same words. They pretended twenty years ago that Boots' drugs were shipwrecked odd lots; now in every town some chemist is undercutting Boots' (thereby often cutting his own throat). They pretend to sell (even yet) dispensing businesses (*vide* the *C. & D.*) where no dispensing to speak of can possibly be done because of the doctors' surgeries. They pretend they have a better trade in drugs than big stores and companies, and that their percentage of patents is much less than the usual 50 per cent., all of which is pretence bred of sheer ignorance of both their own business in its details and of what the companies actually do. They pretend (and travellers help them) that certain big companies are mere traders in fancy goods and leather bags, and yet some of these very travellers have worked for companies, and some of them actually know that their firms sell thousands of pounds' worth of ordinary chemists' goods to companies every year! Why continue? Let us look to the future, even though it be merely to read the howls of protest from the local associations. "Go on, Mr. Young; lead on, Macduff," there are plenty to follow you, though few who have time, or take the trouble, to write and applaud as I venture to do.

JAY MACK.

Ginger Nuts.

SIR,—I was much amused by a letter in your issue of November 23, entitled "A New Side-line," and dealing with chemists in Shields selling "spice nuts." I should like to point out to your correspondent that in Sunderland (six miles from Shields) this "new" side-line has been in vogue for considerably over fifty years. John Young, who, over half a century ago, had the best chemist's business in the town, made a speciality of his "ginger nuts," which he made himself on the premises. They had an enormous sale, and he had agents for them all over the district, many of whom were chemists. John Young is now dead, but his "ginger nuts," made by a local baker, still enjoy a large sale, and many chemists in Sunderland are agents for them. So I do not think Shields folk can claim to have got a "new side-line."

Yours faithfully,

Malta.

THOMAS MARUS.

Legal Queries.

See the "C. & D. Diary, 1907," for much legal information as to all trade matters. In any circumstance not covered by the articles therein, state the case explicitly with all particulars and submit to the Editor.

D. L. (43/50).—As far as we are aware, the word is not registered as a trade-mark, but there are several like it. The only way you can ascertain with certainty whether the word is registered or not is to get an official search made, as to which apply to the Comptroller of Trade-marks, Patents Office, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London.

H. (45/36) ordered certain goods from a traveller, and the manufacturers sent similar goods, differing, however, in quality and price. "H." returned them carriage paid. The manufacturers refuse to take them back, saying that they do not differ from those ordered, and that they will lower the price. Can the manufacturers or the Court compel "H." to take the goods and pay for them? [In replying to such questions as this we have to keep in view the fact that we have only one side of the matter before us, while a judge always has both sides. If the facts are as stated by "H.," and if he can support these statements by evidence, the manufacturers can have no case against him. We gather that the goods ordered were specialties, and the production of samples of those ordered and those delivered should save the Court's time. "H." should be represented by a solicitor.]

F. H. R. (44/71).—The pills labelled with the disclosure which you give will be exempt from medicine stamp-duty.

B. O. E. (42/54).—A chemist's shop cannot be compulsorily closed under the Shop-hours Act of 1904. See *C. & D. Diary*, 1907, p. 233.

Dens (22/17).—The agreement between an unqualified practitioner of dentistry and an assistant to restrain the latter from engaging himself to any dentist within a certain radius might fairly be argued to be unreasonable (and, therefore, not enforceable), because it might prevent the assistant obtaining the experience requisite for qualification under the Dentists Act. The whole circumstances of the case must be considered, and these you do not supply.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months. A preliminary condition for reporting on samples submitted is that all particulars as to source and uses are given to us.

Ferri (44/18).—By a seasonable SOOTHING-SYRUP we presume you mean something that will be serviceable in coughs as well as in gripes. Try the following:

Ol. anisi et anethi	...	...	aa. ℥viij.
Tr. anthemidis	...	...	3iiss.
Vin. ipecacuanhæ	...	...	3iiss.
Spt. chloroformi	...	...	3ij.
Spt. rectificat.	...	...	3j.

Mix, and add to the following solution:

Ammonii bromidi	...	...	3iiss.
Ammonii carbonat.	...	...	3ij.
Aquæ	...	...	3x.

Shake, allow to stand over night, then filter, and in the filtrate dissolve 10 oz. of granulated sugar, colour with cochineal, and make up to 20 oz. with syrup.

Saline (44/55).—An isotonic solution is, physiologically, a solution of common salt possessing the same osmotic pressure as the liquid of living tissues—*i.e.*, one containing 5.807 per cent. of NaCl in distilled water.

H. S. F. B. (40/53).—The cough-mixture will be quite safe for children if you make it up to 8 oz. with equal parts of chloroform-water and syrup.

N. B. (48/5).—The sample which you sent was delivered to us in a dangerous condition, the coal-tar oil with which the FIRE-LIGHTER is saturated having soaked right through. It is against the Post Office regulations to post such things in that manner.

Rusticus (45/71).—The article on TREATMENT OF CHILBLAINS with calcium lactate was in our Winter Issue, January 26, 1907, p. 126.

Bill Bailey (47/19).—The taraxacum and podophyllin mixture, "P.F.," II., is therapeutically good, although not galenically elegant. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of glycerin to each 6 oz., set aside for a week to settle, decant the clear mixture, and filter the "foots." The precipitate contains a little podophyllum resin, but the amount may be neglected.

D. G. (45/34) and *H. H.* (40/20).—We hope to report in our next issue.